

Bataan-Corregidor memorial one of a kind in US

Kashmiris reunite at Peace Bridge at India-Pakistan border

Jacko performed oral sex on boy, ex-guard testifies

River management pact signed by 8 LGUs in Marikina City

Cubao becoming cool again, thanks to new kids on block



Monks bring in satellite dish to watch Vatican rites



LONDON—Monks living on an island off the west coast of Wales have flown in a satellite dish to watch the Pope's funeral on Friday. Caldey Abbey, on Caldey Island, is home to MONKS/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

1,659 of 5,249 pass bar; UP girl is tops

By Armand N. Nocum

"UP is No. 1. It's a girl as usual." The Supreme Court's public information chief, Ismael Khan, announced the results of the bar exams at 6.10 p.m. yesterday to shouts and shrieks from jubilant University of the Philippines students. (Complete list on Page A6.)

1,659 of 5,249 / A20

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Applause at journey's end



AND A MULTITUDE of mourners comes to the biggest funeral in modern history, and the whole world looks on at the plain, wooden coffin carrying the body of Pope John Paul II before the altar on the esplanade in front of St. Peter's Basilica. Here lies a giant of the 20th century, the fondly missed, most beloved Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church. But his funeral went beyond Catholicism. AFP

Pope's will: 'I leave no property'

Following are excerpts from the Vatican information service's English translation of the official Vatican Italian translation of the text of Pope John Paul II's last will and testament, originally written in Polish on March 6, 1979, with successive additions. (Parentheses are in the Pope's text, except for Vatican notations):

"WATCH therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming"—these words remind me of the last call, which will happen at the moment the Lord wishes. I desire to follow Him, and I desire that everything making up part of my earthly life should prepare me for this moment. I do not know when the moment will come, but like everything else, I place it too in the hands of the Mother of my Master: Totus Tuus. In the same maternal Hands I leave everything and everyone with whom my life and vocation have linked me. In these Hands I leave, above all, the Church, as well as my Nation and all humanity. I thank everyone. Of everyone I ask forgiveness. I also

POPE'S / A8

Funeral unites mix of faiths, cultures



VATICAN CITY—The great bells of St. Peter's Basilica tolled, the guns in his native Poland boomed in salute and multitudes broke into prolonged applause as Pope John Paul II was buried yesterday "in the bare earth" where he wanted to lie.

For hours, the world the Polish Pontiff had wanted so much to change seemed to stop as the powerful and the humble paid him a final homage in one of the most momentous funerals in history.

As the requiem Mass ended and he was carried to a crypt deep under the Basilica, the huge throng—estimated at 1 million—applauded in celebration of his life.

Hundreds of millions of people watched on television as the funeral went beyond Catholicism, including in mainly Muslim Egypt, in Jewish Israel and even in Iran, where some ignored a ban on satellite dishes.

"Today we bury his remains in the earth as a seed of immortality," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the main celebrant at the Mass and a possible successor, said in his sermon.

"We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us," he said, pointing up to the third-floor window above

POPE'S FUNERAL/ A8

GMA leads OFWs in cheering, love feast for Pope

By Lito B. Zulueta

VATICAN CITY—They cheered for him the way they did when he was alive.

"Pope John Paul, we love you!" cheered the Filipinos assembled at the huge Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica on Thursday

evening, the eve of the Pontiff's burial. Leading them was Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Leonida Vera, whose mission in the Holy See organized the Mass so that President Macapagal-Arroyo and Filipino migrant workers in Italy could pray together for the Pope, who was also the

bishop of Rome.

US Cardinal Bernard Law welcomed the President and other Filipinos to Santa Maria Maggiore, one of Rome's three most important churches (along with St. Peter's Basilica and the Lateran church).

Law, a former archbishop of

Boston (See related story on Page A22), thanked Ms Arroyo for "bringing the whole [Philippine] nation with us in Rome to pray for the Holy Father," and lauded the Filipinos' contribution to the Roman diocese: "The Filipino community is a great grace and treasure to the Church of Rome."

He referred to Santa Maria Maggiore as "the neighbor church" of Santa Urbana, a smaller church just 200 meters away, where "Filipinos gather every Sunday to celebrate their faith and their nation."

Law also said Ms Arroyo's presence was a "great grace and treasure to the Church of Rome."

GMA LEADS/ A20

2 funerals, a wedding keep royals very busy

TWO FUNERALS and a wedding are taking the measure of the papacy, the British monarchy and the ruling family of Monaco.

The death of John Paul II eclipsed the others, provoking a massive outpouring of emotion quite unlike the obsessive celebrity fascination often focused on royalty.

Nonetheless, it has clearly shaped up as a busy week for Europe's royals and dignitaries with the Pope's funeral in Rome on Friday, Prince Charles' rescheduled

ROYALS/ A21

Filipinos bid John Paul II triumphant farewell

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tina G. Santos

THE CATHOLIC Church's biggest flock in this part of the world yesterday bade Pope John Paul II a "triumphant" farewell as presidents, pilgrims and princes of the Church buried the well-loved Pontiff in the Vatican.

Silent grief attended the prayer rally held at the Rizal Park in Manila, where a crowd (estimated at half a million by Western Police District director Pedro Bulaong) gathered to say goodbye to John Paul, who visited the country twice in his 26-year papacy.

A great number came from the

Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai. Around 120 priests and eucharistic ministers gave communion to the crowd.

But the mood was generally jubilant at the 18-hectare venue where the Pope drew a record five million people at the closing Mass of the World Youth Day in 1995.

"The mood is really triumphant," Bishop Deogracias Iniguez of Caloocan told reporters. "And it shouldn't be otherwise because his death is the supreme witness of his faith."

Bishop Teodoro Bacani said John Paul's death "injected a new stimulus" to the Filipino faith.

"As we all know, we tend to for-

get easily," he said. "Because of his death, we will always remember how great he is as God's gift to us."

The event culminated by the farewell Mass concelebrated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and other bishops at the Quirino Grandstand was a near-reprise of the Pope's 1995 visit.

FILIPINOS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDRESEARCH/04/09/05

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hollis/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Lacag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Reds using int'l aid funds—AFP

Secret paper says communists infiltrated NGOs running rural projects

COMMUNIST rebels are siphoning off funds from multi million-dollar aid projects in the Philippines, many of them funded by foreign governments, according to a secret military briefing paper obtained by Agence France Presse in Manila.

Part of the money funding the 36-year-old Maoist rebellion has been coming from showcase agrarian reform communities, community-based forest management projects, as well as community health projects, the paper said.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army (NPA) are turning the government's key poverty-reduction projects against itself by infiltrating non-government organizations contracted to manage these projects, it added.

The paper "Knowing the Enemy" was prepared by the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the country's senior military officers.

Despite their blacklisting as "foreign terrorist organizations" by the US State Department that constricted their foreign funding sources, there is no evidence to show that the CPP Communist party or its rebel army is on the

decline, the paper said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz announced last week an ongoing review of the government's counter-insurgency strategy amid a dramatic resurgence of a rebel organization that came close to being militarily defeated in the mid-1990s.

"To equip the NPA, cooperatives are formed by CPP cadres to take advantage of government programs such as the CBFMA (community-based forest management projects), Integrated Forestry Management Agreements, and mining. Even agrarian reform communities are taken advantage of," the paper said.

"The government has somehow fallen into the trap of facilitating development assistance programs that require no accountability from the beneficiaries. With this, the (communist) party is able to funnel local and

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday let out a big laugh over a military report accusing communist rebels of siphoning off foreign funds intended for reforestation, health and agrarian reform programs of the government.

"That's a big stupidity and nonsense. They just want to sustain the comical attack against the revolutionary forces that was initiated by their 'Knowing the

Enemy' CD," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He added: "If that were the case, why can't the military and police arrest the perpetrators? What are they doing?"

Rosal said the military should instead ask local government officials in-charge of agrarian reform community projects.

"The local government officials are the one implementing the ARC through their favorite

NGOs. It is not the CPP or the NPA guerillas."

He pointed to the officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as the ones behind the proliferation of suspicious reforestation programs.

"Again and again, the revolutionary forces were not in cahoots with illegal loggers, it's the domain of corrupt DENR personnel," Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

international funds into legal programs that serve as front organizations of the CPP-NPA." The Community Based Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Management Agreements are the government's principal anti-poverty programs in rural areas, which are also the main battlegrounds of the insurgency.

The report said that of the 6,000 community-based forest management project beneficiaries, most live in known New People's Army guerrilla zones and that in effect, the corrupted government program realizes the rebels' own vi-

sion of "agrev (agrarian revolution) in a legal way." The agrarian reform communities meanwhile are clusters of cooperative farms managed by beneficiaries of the government's farmland redistribution program. In 1998 Congress passed a law giving the program a billion-dollar budget.

The military report noted that "the biggest source of funding for the infrastructure projects in the ARC (agrarian reform communities) areas is the Japan Bank for International Cooperation." The agrarian reform department hires non-governmental agencies to train

the beneficiaries, but once the funds are released to the beneficiaries, the government loses oversight powers on the funds, it added.

The report also cited a five-year, National Women's Health Project launched in 1997 and extended in 2002 that is jointly funded by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Agency for International Development, Germany's state-owned development bank Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau, and the European Union.

The entity selected by the health department to monitor the project

on the local level is led by people suspected of guerrilla ties, it added.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Angel Honrado confirmed the existence of the briefing paper to AFP but said it was for internal consumption of the military.

Lt. Cmdr Teddy Quinzon of the military's Civil Relations Service told a briefing on Thursday: "This is not a dying revolution." Quinzon said, noting that the rebels now operated 128 guerrilla fronts tying down up to 60 percent of the armed forces, which are also fighting Muslim separatists and Islamic militants. AFP

Military withholds complete list of suspected 'enemies' of the state

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY failed to fully disclose to the media its complete list of organizations suspected of communist links as contained in an internal briefing paper entitled "Knowing the Enemy."

One of the militant groups identified in the controversial paper pre-

pared by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) yesterday showed to the INQUIRER some of the slides excluded in the PowerPoint presentation to defense reporters on Thursday.

The military allowed the media to view the controversial "Knowing the Enemy" presentation which discussed what the

military sees as the strategy of the Communist party of the Philippines to organize a "united front" among various sectors.

But the slide that identified Bayan Muna and seven party-list groups as instruments of the CPP-New People's Army-National Democratic Front was not shown during the media briefing given

at Camp Aguinaldo.

Another slide that tagged the media group Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) as among the organizations infiltrated by communists was also not shown.

PCIJ was put in the same category as the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NU-

JP) and the theater group PETA.

The NUJP and the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, which got hold of a compact disc copy of the 335-slide PowerPoint presentation, said the military branded them as enemies of the state.

In a statement yesterday, the NUJP dared President Macapagal-Arroyo to disown the Isafp

paper and prove that she respects civil liberties and press freedom.

"We challenge President Arroyo to disown 'Knowing the Enemy' and the military's plot to taint and intimidate legitimate groups critical of the government."

The military had listed 33 organizations as allegedly infiltrated by the CPP.

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GMA says John Paul played big role in Edsa II revolt that toppled Erap

By Gil Cabacungan and Nelson F. Flores

THE LATE Pope John Paul II had a direct hand in influencing the events that led to the success of the EDSA II people power revolution as well as in the formation of state policy on the death penalty and population control under the Arroyo administration.

President Macapagal-Arroyo revealed yesterday in a CNN interview that she bolted the Estrada administration as Vice President and joined the throng of people that converged at EDSA in January 2001 only after a talk with the Pope.

"It was after my conversation with the Pope that I finally found—shall I describe it as courage or conviction—[to make the] break and join the bloodless revolution," Ms Arroyo said.

She, however, did not say what the Pope said that gave her courage and conviction to join the uprising.

"The Pope had a very, very keen sense of understanding of what is happening in the Philippines and he was very encouraging towards my taking steps to make sure that I would do what I could do in order to promote morality in Philippine society," the President said.

Former President Joseph Estrada yesterday lambasted Ms Arroyo for using the late Pope John Paul II to prop up her sagging image by making it appear that the EDSA II uprising which led to his ouster had the Pope's blessings.

"At a time when we should be sending off a great and morally upright man to his eternal rest, Mrs. Arroyo's statement alleging that the Holy Father tacitly approved any move she might make

to take over the government of our country in 2001 smacks of politicking of the cheapest kind," Estrada said through his spokesperson former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Following her ascension to power, Ms Arroyo said she had kept in touch with the Pope especially on key policy issues involving public morals.

"His Holy Father was very much concerned with peace and public morality. He was very against the death penalty and he always communicated to me when he perceived that there was great pressure for me to execute a death penalty on [one] convict or another," said the President who has not meted the maximum penalty to any death convict during her watch.

She also said that the Pope was elated "that I applied my deep

Catholic ideals in governance with regards to the death penalty, the law against divorce, and preventing anything that has to do with abortion."

Ms Arroyo added: "The way he puts it to our Ambassador to the Vatican is that he was very happy that the Philippines is led by a very pious, religious, and Church-abiding person."

The President also joined the call made by church leaders to select another conservative pope. The college of cardinals that would name the new pope are to start meetings on April 18.

"I have my great faith in the wisdom, the collective wisdom of the princes of the church that they will choose a pope who will carry on the important work of promoting morality in public life and in the private lives of people all over the world," she said. **With AFP**

Spanish lawmakers take up cudgels for jailed Osmena scion

By Volt Contreras

SPANISH lawmakers attending the Inter-Parliamentary Union assembly have turned to their Filipino counterparts for help in a bid to save a compatriot—a dual citizen convicted in the "Chiong Sisters" rape-slay case—from *corredor de la muerte* (corridor of death).

In a press conference arranged yesterday by the Spanish envoy to Manila, Spain's eight-member IPU delegation insisted on the innocence of Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, a Spanish-Filipino sent to the death row for the gruesome crime that shocked Cebu City in 1997.

A scion of the powerful Osmeña clan, Larrañaga was one of the seven young men sentenced to life imprisonment by the Cebu Regional Trial Court for the rape and murder of sisters Jacqueline, 23, and Marie Joy Chiong, 20. In February 2004, the Supreme Court upgraded the penalty to death.

The visiting lawmakers cited both Larrañaga's defense and what they saw as procedural lapses in the trial, in letters sent to Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose De Venecia.

"With our utmost respect for the legislation and the judicial system of the Philippines, we deem it appropriate to submit the attached document [containing] factual and procedural details which may have undermined [Larrañaga's] legal guarantees and that casts doubts on the evidence of his guilt," the letter read, adding: "We are convinced that if Your Excellency reads the documents presented, you will reach the same conclusion as the Spanish delegation: It is essential to protect the principles that guarantee the rule of law."

This IPU sidelight was the latest wave of external pressure exerted on the Philippine judiciary over the celebrated case since Larrañaga et al's conviction in May 1999.

Still on appeal at the Supreme Court, the case has drawn calls for a "fair trial" from Spanish legal circles, a rights watchdog group from the European Union and the European Parliament, the latter writing directly to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Madrid Bar Association, Basque Bar and Barcelona Bar had each submitted an Amicus Curiae



LARRAÑAGA

brief to the SC, but the high tribunal refused to accept them.

The Spanish IPU delegation revived key arguments from Larrañaga's defense: That he was in Quezon City when the crime happened in Cebu as attested to by 35 witnesses; and that the prosecution's star witness lacked credibility and wove an inconsistent tale in court.

In the letter, the delegation asked Drilon and De Venecia for their "commitment to act on this issue, from your important position of institutional responsibility."

The letter was signed by legislators spanning Spain's ruling and opposition blocs. They were Congressmen Teresa Cunillera Mestres, Juan Moscoso del Prado Hernandez, Jorge Moragas Sanchez and Jordi Jane Guasch; Senators Clemente Sanz Blanco, Maria Antonia Martinez Garcia, Carles Bonet Reves and Inaki Anasagasti Olabaga.

They visited and had an "emotional" meeting with Larrañaga, 27, at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa on Thursday, the group said during a press conference at the Westin Philippine Plaza, where IPU delegates were staying.

"We are defending the values and principles that the Spanish society shares with Filipinos: the right to life and respect for law," Moragas told the press. "A review of the trial is needed," he stressed.

For Moragas, it "astonished" him as a lawyer and legislator that Larrañaga "was not allowed" by the Cebu court to have his own lawyer but was only given a public attorney. "Many strange things happened," he said.

"We're not asking for clemency. We're asking for justice," added Anasagasti.



BUDDHISTS pray at the Death March marker in Bagac, Bataan, Thursday for the eternal repose of the souls of Filipino, American and Japanese soldiers who fought and died in Bataan during World War II. **JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR**



FIL-JAPANESE Friendship tower's 30th anniversary is commemorated by Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia, Bagac Mayor Armand Ramos, Rev. Hiroshi Niwano and Rev. Koyata Masaaki by releasing doves of peace. **JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR**

Florida county celebrates Fil-Am Day

By Ellen Lansigan Elphick
Contributor

TODAY, April 9, Filipino-American Friendship Day will be celebrated for the third time in—of all places—Osceola County, Florida.

This historic celebration has become an annual event after the passage in 2003 of two proclamations proposed by a former Filipino diplomat turned writer, Menandro M. de Mesa. The proclamations were passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Osceola County and by the City Commission for the City of Kissimmee.

At the center of this yearly celebration is the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial located in the Kissimmee Lakefront Park.

It all started 18 years ago, when De Mesa and then Kissimmee City Commissioner Richard Herring met during a forum at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

De Mesa had denounced the indiscriminate use of the "Old Glory," counting 23 American flags displayed in one car dealership alone. Herring, who was also in the forum, passed an ordinance which provided that only three—not 23—flags can be flown on commercial property.

After that initial meeting, De Mesa and Herring became good friends. Both shared a common



THE ONLY ONE of its kind in the US mainland, life-size statues of an American G.I. and a Filipino soldier being offered water by a Filipino woman during the Death March. The World War II memorial stands at the Kissimmee Lakefront Park in Florida.

interest. They both lamented the poor treatment of war veterans, especially the Americans and Filipinos who fought and died in the Philippines during World War II.

An American in Clark Field

Herring was born in Tampa but was raised in Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines from 1947 to 1953.

His father, who had joined the US Air Force after Pearl Harbor, brought the young Herring to see the 65-mile long route of the infamous Bataan Death March. This interest in the struggle and heroism of the Americans and Filipinos

in Bataan early in his youth led to Herring's involvement in building a war memorial 40 years later.

Herring became Kissimmee City Commissioner from 1987 to 1991. Today, he is a popular citizen activist.

A Filipino in Florida

De Mesa, a former Philippine diplomat, has been a long time resident of Kissimmee and a frequent contributor to newspapers. Inspired by Richard Stahl and Mike Ferguson of the Vietnam War memorial fame, De Mesa envisioned building a memorial to pay tribute to the unsung heroes

of the last world war.

Thus, the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation was formed to undertake the project of building a war memorial. It was established as a nonprofit organization with a tax-exempt and tax-deductible status.

In 1991, De Mesa's dream started to take form. Herring passed a resolution setting aside a small portion of Lakefront Park in the City of Kissimmee as the site for the proposed war veteran memorial. Groundbreaking took place three years later.

Memorial

On May 20, 1995 a life-size statue, rendered in bronze by noted sculptor Sandra M. Storm, was unveiled. Officially named the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial, it is the only one of its kind in the United States. The monument shows an American G.I. and a Filipino soldier limping together as a Filipino woman offers water during the Bataan Death March.

The Orlando Sentinel, in its editorial dated June 15, 1997 noted that the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial "is a delight for those who visit Kissimmee Lakefront Park. The history is important, as is remembering the US and Filipino soldiers killed during World War II."

Top navy official faces corruption probe

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A RANKING official of the Philippine Navy who just retired is now under investigation for alleged graft and corruption, the Navy said yesterday.

Navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said the Navy ordered the investigation against former Navy Vice Commander Rear Admi-

ral Joaquin Tan based on complaints lodged by anonymous Navy officers.

The complaints were couched through Parañaque Rep. Rollo Golez, chair of the House committee on national defense, who subsequently brought it to the attention of the Navy leadership.

Among others, Tan was accused of amassing millions of pe-

sos from illegal transactions he entered into with several suppliers on behalf of the Navy.

"The Navy leadership is aware of the allegations and these are being looked into by Philippine Navy investigating bodies," Malabanan said.

Tan is the fourth member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '71 being investigated for alleged misconduct.

The three others are former military comptroller retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is being tried before civilian and military courts for graft; former Air Force 570th Composite Tactical Wing commander Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo, for graft; and former Air Logistics Supply Command chief Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores, for falsifying his birth date to prolong his military service.

However, Tan could no longer be subject to court martial since he has retired last March 10.

But Malabanan said the mili-

tary will endorse their findings to the Ombudsman which would file criminal charges in court.

The complainants alleged that as the Navy's fleet commander, Tan consolidated all the direct fund support of the Philippine Fleet from the second quarter to the last quarter of 2004 "in the guise of procuring centrally all the requirements of the eight forces and groups under him."

They said Tan replaced all the procurement and finance officers and appointed his own team who allegedly entered into multi-million peso anomalous deals with suppliers.

The complainants said the supplies and materials that were supposed to have been delivered starting the second quarter of 2004 were all "ghost deliveries."

"Our empty bodegas will speak the truth for those ghost deliveries," they said.

Correction

THE STORY, "Pope appoints 2 new RP bishops," on Page A4 of the April 3 issue misstated the name of the auxiliary bishop of Daet, Camarines Norte who was named new prelate of Legazpi City as Noel Cariño. It should have been Nestor Cariño.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocas Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

NEWSBRIEFS

Hold order on Garcias

THE Sandiganbayan yesterday issued a hold departure order for all family members of retired armed forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia who were indicted for plunder by the Office of the Ombudsman early this week. The order was issued by Justice Edilberto Sandoval, presiding justice of the second division of Sandiganbayan. Banned from leaving the country are Garcia, his wife Clarita and sons Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark. The Garcias were charged with plunder for allegedly illegally amassing wealth worth more than P303 million. Except for Garcia, who is detained, and his wife, the rest of the accused are reportedly in the United States. **Nelson F. Flores**

Pakistan's Musharraf arriving

PAKISTAN President Pervez Musharraf is to make a state visit to the Philippines on April 18-20, the first by a leader of Pakistan, Malacañang said Friday. Musharraf is to meet with President Gloria Arroyo to discuss expanded anti-terrorism cooperation, Palace officials said. The two leaders would also review developments in Mindanao. Manila is set to begin peace talks in neighboring Malaysia with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's largest Muslim separatist guerrilla group, two days before the Pakistani leader's visit here. Musharraf will also address a joint session of Congress on April 19. **AFP**

Pakistan to free 38 Pinoy fishermen

PAKISTANI authorities are set to release the 38 Filipino fishermen arrested for trespassing last March 28—but the would-be returnees are not that eager to come home. The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said the fishermen would first like to collect up to nine months' worth of "unpaid wages" from their Singapore-based manning agency before they are repatriated. The DFA said it has released P1.1 million for their air fares back to the Philippines. The Filipinos were held at the Land District Jail in Karachi after their trawlers were seized for straying into Pakistani waters. **Volt Contreras**

Senate resolution vs Myanmar

THE Senate is to pass a resolution calling for Myanmar to be stripped of its upcoming Asean chairmanship unless it releases a timetable towards democracy and improves human rights. Senate president Franklin Drilon said Friday. Drilon urged Myanmar's military government to respect the rights of its people ahead of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) foreign ministers' informal meeting in Cebu on Monday. "The Senate of the Philippines through the Committee on Foreign Relations has a pending resolution which is about to be adopted in the Senate which says Myanmar should not be allowed to assume the chairmanship of the Asean unless there is a definite timetable for the roadmap to democracy and the human rights issues are addressed," he said. **AFP**

MILF to hunt kidnappers

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) offered yesterday to help hunt renegade MILF members behind a string of kidnappings in Mindanao. On Friday, a wealthy Chinese trader in Cotabato City became the fourth person since late 2004 to be held for ransom by a rogue faction of the MILF. "We are duty-bound to help recover the kidnap victim because of an agreement we have signed with the Philippine government to go after criminals and kidnappers hiding in our territories," Eld Kabalu, a spokesman for the MILF, said. "This will also prove we are not behind the kidnappings. We remain committed to the peace talks." The MILF's offer was seen as part of confidence-building moves ahead of Malaysian-hosted talks due to resume on April 16-18. **Reuters**



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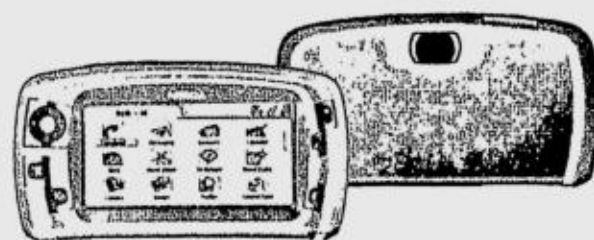


On vacation with my new Nokia 7710

During my long break, I brought my new Nokia 7710 along. Snapped lots of pictures of me and my honey which I sent to friends via MMS. Approved the campaign of our star client- a cinch as I could review the latest Powerpoint on e-mail. Sent Daddy a handwritten personalized birthday card with my own artistic touch. Won a vacation package from a radio station. Got my usual dose of reality shows. Listened to my new song playlist. Cleared my Yahoo mailbox. Shopped for rare stuff on E-bay.

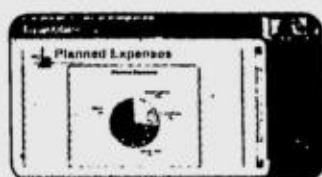
On vacation without my new Nokia 7710

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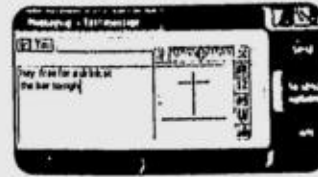
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Pope's funeral unites mix of faiths, cultures

From page A1

the square where the faithful had last seen him alive.

Just before being brought back into the basilica for burial, the coffin was held aloft and turned toward the square over which he had presided countless ceremonies during his 26-year pontificate.

Mourners wept and bells tolled as the coffin disappeared into the church a last time.

Chanting crowds

"Santo subito" (Make him a saint immediately), the crowds chanted in Italian, holding up the Mass for more than 5 minutes in an outpouring of emotion for a giant of the 20th century.

John Paul, his body encased in three caskets, was buried only with a simple stone slab covering his coffin.

The first cypress coffin was placed inside a second one, of zinc, then a third of walnut—the latter two to slow down the decomposition process. The walnut coffin bears a cross and his papal coat of arms.

As he requested, he was buried in the bare earth, not in a majestic marble sarcophagus like many other popes.

This was evidence of his unostentatious style. He left no personal property in his will. He ate sparingly: mostly soups and other simply prepared Polish fare. He wore the same type of oxblood-colored leather shoes throughout his pontificate and was buried in them.

Presidents, prime ministers and kings joined millions of pilgrims, prelates and other religious leaders for one of the largest religious gatherings in the West in modern times.

Security clampdown

Italy closed the airspace over central Rome and called in extra forces, anti-aircraft missiles and patrol boats to guard the funeral.

Applause first rang out from the multitude as 12 pall bearers carried John Paul's simple cypress coffin, adorned with a cross and the "M" for Mary, into the square from St. Peter's Basilica.

The coffin was laid on the steps of the vast church where, more than 26 years ago, Karol Wojtyla first

emerged as pontiff to stun the world with his vitality and charisma.

Prelates placed a copy of the Gospel on the coffin as the Vatican's Sistine Choir sang the Gregorian chant "Grant him eternal rest O Lord."

Cardinals wearing white miters processed out onto the square, the wind whipping their red vestments and the pages of the Gospel.

Near St. Peter

The Mass ended with all standing and together singing: "May the angels accompany you into heaven..."

For a Pope who traveled the equivalent of 30 times the circumference of the earth during his reign, his last journey was the shortest.

After the Mass, his coffin was laid to rest in a crypt to join the remains of popes from centuries past, near the traditional tomb of the apostle Peter, the first pope.

Last blessing

Cardinal Ratzinger referred to John Paul as our "late beloved Pope" in a homily that traced his life from his days as a factory worker in Nazi-occupied Poland to the last days of his life as the head of the world's 1 billion Catholics.

Interrupted by applause at least 10 times, the usually unflappable German-born Ratzinger choked with emotion as he recalled one of John Paul's last public appearances—when he blessed the faithful from his studio window on Easter Sunday.

Blend of faith and fervor

John Paul II was buried with a mix of faith and fervor that marked his papacy: Polish flags waved, mourners recited the rosary and young people joined in hymns and folk songs.

Millions watched on television around the world.

Four kings, five queens and at least 70 presidents and prime ministers attended the open-air service in a farewell to a man who helped bring down the Iron Curtain and stamped a strict orthodoxy on his own Church.

Among 2,500 dignitaries of all faiths and races invited to the Re-naisance square were US Presi-



CARDINALS hold on to their red flowing robes and miters whipped by the wind as they arrive for the outdoor requiem Mass held at the esplanade of St. Peter's Basilica. The Philippines' Cardinal Vidal is second from left, front row.

dent George W. Bush, whose limousine sported Vatican and US flags, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Britain's Prince Charles and various Arab leaders.

Extraordinary mix

"Maybe today will make us hope of a future of peace, not of conflict and hatred," Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said.

Police struggled to hold back the crowds as they surged forward and many faithful fainted from the emotion.

The crowd of delegates reflected the extraordinary mix of faiths and cultures: Orthodox bishops in long black robes, Arabs in checkered headscarves, Central Asians in traditional lambskin caps and Western political leaders in dark suits.

Roman Catholic cardinals will open a conclave on April 18 to elect a new Pope.

Tears rolling down her cheeks as the Pope's coffin emerged into sunlight, 18-year-old Beata from

Poland said: "Our whole world will be different now. I don't know what we will do without him to lead us."

Up to 2 million more people watched the service on giant television screens around Rome.

A pouch of silver

The funeral was preceded by an intimate ceremony attended only by high-ranking prelates, who placed a pouch of silver and bronze medals and a scrolled account of the Pope's life in his coffin.

John Paul's longtime private secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, and the master of the liturgical ceremonies, Archbishop Piero Marini, placed a white silk veil over the Pope's face before the coffin was closed.

Rome groaned under the weight of visitors.

Side streets were clogged in a permanent pedestrian rush hour, mostly by children with backpacks. Tent camps sprang up at

the Circus Maximus and elsewhere around the city to take the spillover from hotels.

Hawkers jacked up prices of everything from bottled water to papal trinkets.

Rome weighed down

Catholics who could not get to Italy instead bid farewell to the Pope in myriad services around the world.

Up to 1 million Poles were estimated to have watched the funeral on giant screens in Krakow, the city where Wojtyla was archbishop before becoming Pope.

Twenty-six volleys were fired from six cannons set on the tomb of the unknown soldier in central Warsaw's Pilsudski Square as the Pope's coffin was carried out of St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Following are snapshots from around the world:

New York: The lights of New York's Empire State Building were dimmed overnight Thursday in a solemn tribute on the eve

of the funeral.

The skyscraper's illuminations, which often change color to reflect various events and national days, were darkened at 9:27 p.m.—the time of his death in the Vatican on April 2.

Beijing: From Beijing's old official churches to underground congregations in the countryside, China's Catholics marked the burial despite an official blackout on the ceremony.

Print media paid no attention to the funeral, and state television said it would also ignore the event.

Tokyo: Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito joined 1,500 Catholics, diplomats and government officials at a Tokyo church for a Mass to mourn the Pope.

Naruhito, on behalf of his father Emperor Akihito, took a deep bow before a photograph of the Pope as he offered a small bouquet of white flowers at St. Mary's Cathedral. **AFP, Reuters, AP**

Pope's will: 'I leave no ...

From page A1

ask for prayer, that the Mercy of God may appear greater than my weakness and unworthiness.

I leave no property behind me of which it is necessary to dispose. As for the everyday objects that were of use to me, I ask they be distributed as seems appropriate. My personal notes are to be burned.

As for the funeral, I repeat the same dispositions as were given by the Holy Father Paul VI. (Here is a note in the margin: burial in the bare earth, not in a sarcophagus).

After my death I ask for Masses and prayers.

I express my profound trust that, despite all my weakness, the Lord will grant me all the grace necessary to face according to His will any task, trial or suffering that He will ask of His servant, in the course of his life. I also trust that He will never allow me—through some attitude of mine: words, deeds or omissions—to betray my obligations in this holy Petrine See.

Today I wish to add only this: that each of us must bear in mind the prospect of death. And must be ready to present himself before the Lord and Judge—Who is at the same time Redeemer and Father.

The times in which we live are unutterably difficult and disturbed. The path of the Church has also become difficult and tense, a characteristic trial of these times—both for the Faithful and for Pastors. In some Countries ... the Church is undergoing a period of such persecution as to be in no way lesser than that of early centuries, indeed it surpasses them in its degree of cruelty and hatred ... And apart from this—many people die innocently even in this Country in which we are living.

Once again, I wish to entrust myself totally to the Lord's grace. He Himself will decide when and how I must end my earthly life and pastoral ministry. In life and in death, Totus Tuus in Mary Immaculate. Accepting that death, even now, I hope that Christ will give me the grace for the final passage, in other words (Vatican notation: "my") Easter. I also hope that He makes (Vatican notation: "that death") useful for this more important cause that I seek to serve: the salvation of men and women, the safeguarding of the human family and, in that, of all nations and all peoples (among them, I particularly address my earthly Homeland), and useful for the people with whom He particularly entrusted me, for the question of the Church, for the glory of God Himself.

In connection with the last sentence in my testament of 6.III.1979 (March 6, 1979) ("concerning the site / that is, the site of the funeral / let the College of Cardinals and Compatriots decide")—I will make it clear that I have in mind: the metropolitan of Krakow or the General Council of the Episcopate of Poland—in the meantime I ask the College of Cardinals to satisfy, as far as possible, any demands of the above-mentioned.

Again—as regards the expression "College of Cardinals and Compatriots": the "College of Cardinals" has no obligation to consult "Compatriots" on this subject, however it can do so, if for some reason it feels it is right to do so.

As the Jubilee Year progressed, day by day the 20th century closes behind us and the 21st century opens. According to the plans of Divine Providence I was allowed to live in the difficult century that is retreating into the past, and now, in the year in which my life reaches 80 years ("octogesima adveniens"), it is time to ask oneself if it is not the time to repeat with the biblical Simeone "nunc dimittis" (Ed: Latin for "Now Master you may let your servant go.")

On May 13, 1981, the day of the attack on the Pope during the general audience in St. Peter's Square, Divine Providence saved me in a miraculous way from death. The One Who is the Only Lord of life and death Himself prolonged my life, in a certain way He gave it to me again. From that moment it belonged to Him even more. I hope He will help me to recognize up to what point I must continue this service to which I was called on October 16, 1978. I ask him to call me back when He Himself wishes.

The last decade of the century was free of the previous tensions; that does not mean that it did not bring with it new problems and difficulties. In a special way may Divine Providence be praised for this, that the period of the so-called "cold war" ended without violent nuclear conflict, the danger of which weighed on the world in the preceding period.

As the end of my life approaches I return with my memory to the beginning, to my parents, to my brother, to the sister (I never knew because she died before my birth), to the parish in Wadowice, where I was baptized, to that city I love, to my peers, friends from elementary school, high school and the university, up to the time of the occupation when I was a worker, and then in the parish of Niegowic, then St. Florian's in Krakow, to the pastoral ministry of academics, to the milieu of ... to all milieux ... to Krakow and to Rome ... to the people who were entrusted to me in a special way by the Lord.

To all I want to say just one thing: "May God reward you."

AP

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QUALS

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Kashmiris reunite at Peace Bridge in tears, raised hopes

PEACE BRIDGE, India-Pakistan border—Showered with tears and rose petals from relatives thought long lost, two groups of Indian and Pakistani Kashmiris walked over the "Peace Bridge" on Thursday, breaching a military line that has divided them and their land with blood for almost 60 years.

Nineteen Indian Kashmiris, mostly elderly, defied separatist threats and crossed the metal bridge—painted neutral white for the occasion—hours after 31 Pakistanis walked into India to reunite divided families.

"I can't control my emotion. I am setting foot in my motherland," said a tearful Shahid Bahar, a lawyer from the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, Muzaffarabad.

"I am coming here for the first time to meet my blood relations," said Bahar, whose father crossed over in 1949. "It was my dream. It is unbelievable. Everyone is here."

On both sides, they were hugged and kissed by relatives they had not held for decades, or in some cases, ever.

"It's for the first time that I have seen my uncle," sobbed Noreen Arif, an adviser to Pakistani Kashmir's prime minister, hugging him

tearfully as he stepped off the bridge.

Major celebrations were held in the final destinations, Muzaffarabad, and Srinagar. On Srinagar's Dal Lake, canoeloads of flowers were pushed out into the water to give thanks for the safe arrival of the passengers.

Wary, emotional passengers were welcomed in Srinagar with marigold garlands and a live band as camera lights flashed.

Washington called it "a powerful symbol of rapprochement" between rivals which fought two wars over mainly Muslim Kashmir.

"The leaders of India and Pakistan ... will continue to have the strong support of the United States as they resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue," US Ambassador David C. Mulford said in a statement.

A spokesperson for Kofi Annan said the United Nations Secretary General saw the bus service as opening the way to further progress and "the resolution of all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan."

Attacks by Islamic separatists who threatened to turn the buses into rolling coffins scared off some passengers but failed to derail one of the most significant and emotive steps in South Asia's unsteady peace process.

"The caravan of peace has started," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said as he sent off the Pak-

istan-bound bus in front of a crowd of thousands braving freezing drizzle at the Lion of Kashmir stadium in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian Kashmir and the region's heart and soul. "Nothing can stop it," Separatists tried to stop it, firing two rifle grenades at one of the Muzaffarabad-bound buses soon after it left. But no one was hurt, the bus was not hit and did not stop.

Two guerrillas staged a suicide attack on a fortified government complex housing the passengers on Wednesday just a few hundred meters from the Lion of Kashmir stadium.

They torched the complex. The passengers escaped, although five later pulled out. As the white-and-green buses draped with marigolds drove off, the complex still smoldered nearby.

On both sides of the heavily militarized and policed border, in an area once shelled almost daily, large crowds of locals gathered on the sides of the steep, rocky Pir Panjal mountains to watch the event, turned into a major celebration by India.

Reuters



MICHAEL Jackson entering the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, California, April 5.

REUTERS

Jacko performed oral sex on boy, ex-guard testifies

SANTA MARIA, California—Michael Jackson's prosecutors Friday were set to wrap up a week of explosive testimony in which jurors heard how the star allegedly performed oral sex on a young boy and fondled others.

The prosecution at Jackson's child sex trial planned to bring out more witnesses to Jackson's alleged abuses of five boys about a decade ago, while the defense was certain to step up its attempts to discredit their credibility.

The "King of Pop" is on trial for allegedly fondling another 13-year-old boy at his Neverland ranch two years ago, but the prosecution hopes the prior cases will demonstrate a pattern of child abuse in his past.

Testimony in the prior cases could continue until next week, while the trial itself is expected to continue for several more months.

Among those still to testify in the five cases is the mother of a boy allegedly molested by Jackson at age 13 and who won an out-of-court settlement worth more than \$20 million in a 1994 deal that ensured his silence and averted a criminal trial.

The new testimony could inflict more damage to Jackson's defense, already reeling from this week's graphic descriptions of alleged child

abuse incidents in the early 1990s.

A former security guard told jurors he saw Jackson and the boy who won the 1994 deal naked in a bathroom at the star's Neverland Ranch.

"I saw Mr. Jackson caressing the boy's hair, he was kissing him on his head, on his face, his lips ... sucking his nipples," Ralph Chacon said on Thursday.

Jackson then "put the little boy's penis in his mouth," Chacon said.

Former Jackson maid Adrian McManus also told jurors on Thursday she saw the pop icon kissing the boy and two others as he touched their rear ends or crotches.

She identified one of those boys as "Home Alone" movie star Macaulay Culkin, who has denied ever being abused by Jackson.

Earlier in the week, the court also heard emotional testimony from one of the boys Jackson allegedly abused.

The boy, who testified to three groping incidents when he was aged 7 to 10, had won an out-of-court settlement worth a reported \$2 million from Jackson in 1994.

His mother, who was Jackson's personal maid for years, told jurors she once saw another young boy in the shower with Jackson, and that boys regularly slept with the star in his bed.

AFP

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After 34 years, wedding bells to ring for Charles and Camilla



Britain's Prince Charles and his fiancée Camilla Parker Bowles after a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II at Westminster Cathedral in London April 4.

LONDON—After 34 long years in and out of romance, and two months packed with preparations, Prince Charles will wed Camilla Parker Bowles on Saturday and give Britons a new, if not entirely welcome, Princess of Wales.

The second marriage for the heir to the throne, after the failed "fairy tale" union to the late Princess Diana, who died in 1997, has stirred little love but some bemusement in Britain, as mishap after mishap has piled up during its planning.

In contrast to the glamorous 1981 wedding to Diana, watched by a global television audience estimated at 750 million and attended by 3,500 people, the modest affair for Charles and Parker Bowles could come as a letdown.

Their plans have been dogged by an almost comical series of gaffes, starting with a rushed announcement on Feb. 10, a forced move of the civil ceremony site and the awkward announcement that it would be missed by Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II.

Most recently, they were confronted on Thursday with a security stunt when a journalist drove a fake bomb onto the premises of Windsor Castle, the queen's residence west of London where the religious blessing and reception for the wedding will be held.

The most unfortunate coincidence will see the wedding squeezed between two major funerals—that of Pope John Paul II on Friday, and of Monaco's Prince Rainier exactly a week later.

Charles and Parker Bowles had to delay their wedding by 24 hours so that the prince could attend the funeral at the Vatican. Younger brother Prince Andrew will act as the queen's representative in Monaco while the couple honeymoon in Scotland.

Last-minute delays and awkward mishaps have not, despite the odds, sidetracked the earnest intentions of a couple long in love—middle-aged, divorced with children, and on-off intimates for more than three decades.

Charles, 56, will marry Parker Bowles, 57, at 12:30 (1130 GMT) on Saturday in a civil ceremony at the Windsor town hall.

Their eldest sons—22-year-old Prince William and 30-year-old Tom Parker Bowles—will serve as witnesses before an intimate gathering of 28 mostly family members inside the Guildhall.

Twenty short minutes later, Parker Bowles will be the Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess of Wales, and future queen should Charles accede to the throne—a possibility which still riles most Britons.



THE LATE Prince Rainier (center) of Monaco stands between his daughter Princess Caroline and his son Prince Albert in this Dec. 11, 2002 photo.

Get a wife, Albert asked

MONACO—Prince Albert of Monaco will bring new energy and ideas to his wealthy statelet while continuing the sterling economic work of his late father Prince Rainier, but the 47-year-old bachelor needs to get himself a wife, say his subjects.

"He'll be just like his father. I think he's up to the job. We're very proud of him," said Angelo Franco in a typically glowing reaction from locals questioned at random on the streets of this principality of 32,000 people.

But, advised car park attendant Franco, "it would be better for Monaco if he had an heir."

Albert, the second child and only son of Rainier, who died Wednesday, and the US film star Grace Kelly, had assumed some public functions on the international stage but his father never delegated powers inside the state.

So the tall and balding figure, a keen sportsman whose continuing bachelorhood is a subject of constant comment in the European celebrity press, is still unmarried in the ways of government.

"Rainier's strength was to be both monarch and businessman," said

France-Soir newspaper recently: "This is the equation Albert must face. Is he endowed as his father was with the same combination of charisma and entrepreneurial genius?"

Monegasques, as residents of this 2-square-kilometer state wedged between the foothills of the Alps and the Mediterranean Sea are known, have no doubt that he is.

"He'll modernize the principality. He has new ideas," said Alexandra Battaglia, an employee in Monaco's tourist office.

"He has his American side," said a tobacco shop owner, who declined to give his name.

"He'll take more time to reach decisions. He'll be less Mediterranean. A Mediterranean decides quickly and then can quickly change his mind. But once Albert takes a decision he'll stick to it," he said.

But while on the economic front Albert needs only to continue the policies of his father, who in his 55 years in power turned the rocky statelet from a Riviera Ruritania into a thriving banking and business center, his subjects are concerned that he needs to make changes in his private life.

WHO tells Angola's neighbors to go on killer virus alert

VIANA, Angola—The World Health Organization recommended that four neighboring countries go on a Marburg alert around Angola, the epicenter of an outbreak of the deadly Ebola-like virus which has now claimed 174 lives, a top WHO official said Thursday, adding the death toll had "not yet peaked."

"Everybody should be on alert. Not only other provinces in Angola where but all its neighboring countries, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia," said Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, the Geneva-based UN health organization's assistant director general of communicable diseases.

The death toll from the virus has jumped from 159 to 174 and has more than doubled in the last three weeks, now spreading to seven of the poor southern African country's 18 provinces.

A combined statement from the Angolan government and the WHO said the killer fever had spread to the northern Zaire and central Kwanza Sul provinces.

"We are still seeing new cases," said Asamoah-Baah.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," he told AFP ahead of a visit to a clinic in the dusty Angolan township of Viana, some 20 kilometers southeast of the seaboard capital which has been gripped by fear of the hemorrhagic fever.

The official death toll from the Ebola-like virus, which spread through contact with bodily fluids such as blood, excrement, vomit and saliva, and for which there is no specific treatment stood at 159 Thursday morning.

Asamoah-Baah said the WHO—which celebrated World Health Day under the banner of "Make every mother and child

count"—was happy "for the moment" with the measures put in place to combat the epidemic.

"There is still a lot of room for improvement. Systems have been put into place but we need more people and more equipment," he said, but commended the setting up of two laboratories in Luanda and Uige, the epicenter of the deadly outbreak some 300 km north of the capital.

A relatively new disease, Marburg first broke out in Angola in October last year and initially baffled scientists until last month when it was identified after samples were sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States.

The Atlanta-based organization first identified the Marburg virus, named after the German town where laboratory workers were first infected by monkeys from Uganda.

Asamoah-Baah said the most pressing problem remained the lack of information to Angola's 14 million inhabitants, despite a radio and television campaign on the country's two channels.

"The greatest weakness we have is that we still don't have enough information out to educate the public—what this disease is, how it is spread and how people can get it through contact with the dead," he told AFP.

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Catharsis

SOME commentators have suggested that Pope John Paul II's funeral was a "cathartic" experience for tens of millions of people around the world. If we understand catharsis to mean a "release of emotional tension, as after an overwhelming experience; that restores or refreshes the spirit," as some dictionaries define it, then by all accounts it was.

The rituals, both spiritual and temporal, that surround the funeral of a pope, serve as a way of anchoring a life in the inevitability of death: in the minds of Christians, merely the passage to eternal life. The words of the Apostle St. Paul, "O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" have echoed in Christian minds for millennia; and it is with that view—that faith has replaced pagan despair at death with Christian joy in the believer's certainty of resurrection—that the funeral of the pope must be seen.

In the West, death is clinical, abstract. The manner in which Christians, and particularly Catholics, embrace death, viewing it as a process that begins with a person's actual dying, to grieving after a person dies, to the burial and then a never-ending remembrance and commemoration of a life through prayers and visits to the tomb, is alien, even abhorrent, to many "modern" minds. In the wake of John Paul II's passing, it has often been mentioned that he vigorously objected to what he called the West's "culture of death," by which he meant not only its permissive attitude toward abortion and euthanasia, but also its hedonistic assumption that death is only a biological, and not a spiritual, event.

The Pope's refusal to make great efforts to hide the effects of age was motivated by a desire to bear witness to the inevitability of aging, and of dying. His dying was his final act of witness to what he felt should be the aspiration of every Christian: a good, and holy, death.

The funeral of Pope John Paul II was fundamentally, a proclamation of Christian faith, of confidence in the Catholic interpretation of the Gospels. The pomp and rituals themselves should be seen in this light. The Pope's body placed in a simple wooden coffin, the coffin of poor people, yet with mementoes of his reign.

The final act of attendance on his body, the placing of a white veil on his face, represented the Biblical passage, "When the veil of flesh is removed we will see Him face to face." It symbolized as well modesty and unworthiness to be brought into the presence of God. When the coffin was brought out to the plaza of St. Peter's Basilica, its sole adornment was the Gospels placed upon it: in a sense, the mortal remains of the Pope, subjected to days of reverence by the faithful, proven immaterial in comparison to the Word of God.

Catholic, non-Catholic, even atheist, world leaders traveled to the Vatican out of respect for the late Pope, but their presence there was at a ceremony central to the Catholic religion, the Mass. There were leaders, and viewers from nations in which the proclamation of Christianity and the celebration of religious rites are forbidden: yet there were very few corners of the world in which it was possible to ignore the loud, very public, and fundamentally communal, expression of the central importance of faith.

In this manner, Filipinos joined other peoples in witnessing the funeral rites of a pope during which the modern world was held in the thrall of an ancient, often incomprehensible spirituality. The world of technology, for a few hours, at least, was subverted to announce that for millions, even billions of people, modernity—in the sense of contemporary life's preoccupation with material objects—cannot hold a permanent sway.

Filipinos are very familiar with the long wake, the many rituals of death. It helps us say goodbye, and express in both worldly and spiritual terms, how we miss someone, and yet hold a higher confidence in eventually meeting him or her again. For generations to come, Filipinos will be among the many pilgrims trekking to his tomb, once occupied by the saintly John XXIII, whose body was moved in 2003 to a side altar in St. Peter's Basilica for veneration by the faithful. But now that the final, earthly farewell had been made, the minds of millions now embark on a new journey, one that begins with the coming election of a new pope.



Inexcusable neglect

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



I WAS disturbed last week, but not unusually, when the papers reported that a graft case filed by the Ombudsman in 1987 against Ferdinand Marcos and some of his cronies was dismissed by the Sandiganbayan because the prosecution was—mark this—not prepared.

The news would have caused popular outrage over another example of official neglect, but few readers paid much attention to it. The reason is that such incidents have become quite common among our government functionaries and are now simply taken in stride by the public.

Inefficiency among our public servants has become a fact of life in this country that many of us are willing to condone and forget.

Pardon me for dissenting. Indifference is not my cup of tea, nor should it be yours. We should speak up when we ought to or remain only second worst from the top to Indonesia in corruption or second worst from the bottom to Bangladesh in economic progress. We should aspire to be the highest among the best as in singing or at least the lowest among the worst as in basketball.

Today we are mediocre but only because we choose to be so and do not aspire to be better. We will remain second-rate unless we speak up in protest against the faults of our people whenever we have to.

The first thing I will ask about that dismissed case is why the Office of the Ombudsman was not ready to begin its presentation of evidence against the accused despite the fact that the information against them was filed in 1987. That was 18 years ago. A good lawyer prepares his evidence even before commencing to litigate, but the prosecutors in this case were simply still unprepared after waiting for almost two decades for the trial to begin. What were they doing in the meantime?

The second thing that I found equally mys-

tifying and in fact inexplicable was why the case was called, apparently for its first hearing only, as late as last week in this year of the Lord 2005. What happened—or did not happen—during the last 18 years? Was it sleeping all that time in the dockets of the Sandiganbayan? Even if scores or even hundreds of preliminary and usually dilatory motions had been filed before, they should have been disposed of earlier if the justices had not been sleeping too. This must have been the case as otherwise the beginning of the trial proper would not have been called only last week.

The prosecutors and the justices may argue that this was not the only case they were handling, but that is no excuse, of course. In fact, they were apparently not handling that particular case at all. In any event, they should have apportioned their time among the several cases that needed their attention, which is something they have not done, given the fact that the case against Marcos and his co-accused has not moved at all since it was filed shortly after Edsa I occurred in 1986.

It is also possible that the case may have just been assigned to them, but that is also no excuse. The prosecutors had the duty to study them against the day when it would eventually be called for trial. If they had not done so for lack of time, they should have filed a motion to reset the scheduled hearing, which would have been granted. After all, postponement for another month or so would not have mattered

much after the delay of almost 20 years.

As for the justices themselves, there does not appear to be any valid reason why it is only now that they have decided to begin the trial proper after all of 18 years. Their only possible excuse is that the case has just been transferred to them, but that does not absolve the administration itself of the Sandiganbayan for the long delay. If pending cases are transferred to other justices after the retirement of the original ponentes, we can imagine how such cases can be interminably delayed with the frequent changes in the membership of the court. They should devise some way to avoid the continuation and aggravation of this problem.

The importance of the case itself should have deserved the preferential attention of the Sandiganbayan. It involved the grant of a behest loan of P160 million to the Cebu Plaza Hotel which had only a P500,000 paid-up capital. P135 million of the loan was extended by the DBP with the express and personal approval of Marcos and the other P25 million came from the Philippine Tourism Authority, possibly upon his own instruction too. The hotel was later awarded by the Cebu government, the original owner, to another crony, reportedly without public bidding. Worse, the entire loan, including interests, has remained unpaid to date since it was contracted in 1978.

Another indication of the importance of the case is the claim of the government for P51 million in moral and exemplary damages, on top of the principal indebtedness and the accrued interest. It is a good thing that the dismissal of the case is without prejudice, meaning it can still be filed anew. Otherwise, all these claims will have gone up in smoke because of the apparent neglect of the prosecutors and the Sandiganbayan, to the benefit of the fortunate debtors.

Love personified

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



MORE Catholics saw him in the flesh than any other pope simply because knowing that they couldn't all come to him, he visited them instead, in all the corners of the world—a shepherd tending his flock. And his flock responded to his attention. I got to see him three times during his two visits to the Philippines, and although never close enough to touch him, I felt ecstatic.

The first time, at the corner of Shaw Boulevard and the street leading to the Archbishop's Palace, I was with some friends, and we got a really good glimpse of him as his coaster slowed down to take the turn. I can only describe his look as the look of love. His wave and blessing set off a response from us—dignified matrons, professionals, what-have-you—that would have put any rock star fan to shame: screaming ourselves hoarse, jumping up and down, waving our arms, tears of joy running down our faces.

The second time was when I was part of a crowd of parents that surged toward him as iron chips to a magnet, brought to our senses only because of the cries of our young sons who were part of his "honor guard," and who were terrified of being crushed. He comforted them and gave us a look of understanding—again, the look of love.

The third time was when some church choirs (I was part of the Coro de San Antonio) were given the privilege of serenading him outside the Arzobispado in Intramuros. But there were delays in his schedule, and after a long wait, we were told that the serenade had been cancelled. We were extremely disappointed, but no one voiced a complaint because we knew His Holiness must have been exhausted by that time. Somehow, he found out about us and appeared at a window to wave at us—which caused pandemonium among the choir members (the same tears and jumping, waving and screaming). He motioned us to sing, and as we sang our hearts out for him, his body swayed in rhythm. He practiced so easily what he preached, putting oth-

ers before himself—ignoring his tiredness to reward our hours of practice and waiting.

Such reaction at the sight of him was not limited to Catholics. My sister, who lives in Washington, is not a Catholic. Very prim and proper, she never tires of recounting how she elbowed her four-foot-eleven body through a crowd of people who were waiting for the Pope, until she got to the front. She was rewarded for her persistence, and was able to touch him as he went by. She too forgot her dignity, and started screaming and crying with joy with the crowd. And why not, didn't he go out of his way to reach out to members of all faiths? Wasn't he the first Pope to visit a Jewish synagogue and a Muslim mosque, with reconciliation rather than mayhem in mind?

Even over TV, his love and concern communicated themselves to the viewers. He communicated not only with his words, but with his looks, with his actions. No wonder he was called the Great Communicator. He reached out to all. The story goes that as he lay dying, his last thoughts were of his flock. When the sounds of the crowd in the square reached his ears, he expressed his gratitude, saying "I cannot go to them anymore, so they are coming to me."

And come to him they have. At his funeral, up to an estimated four million people (waiting for hours for their turn to see him for five seconds), including 200 heads of state and government officials—the largest gathering the world has ever seen—paid him their last respects. Those who couldn't come showed their love in different ways. My walking group contributed to a scholarship fund in his memory and will be holding its own memorial ser-

vice for him. He was not only the Holy Father, he was family.

Based on the most recent survey, two-thirds of American Catholics think that Pope John Paul II will go down in history as one of the greatest popes; an even greater portion (71 percent) thinks that he will be made a saint by the Catholic Church. This, even as they disagree with his pronouncements in several areas. The same poll shows that a majority of Catholics want the next pope to allow the use of birth control (78 percent), to let priests marry (63 percent), and to have a less strict policy on stem cell research (59 percent). On the questions of whether the next pope should allow women to become priests (55 percent in favor, 44 percent against), and whether Catholics should be allowed to divorce and remarry (49 percent yes, 48 percent no), no strong conclusions can really be drawn because the margin of error is 6 percentage points either way. About the only issue where they support the Pope strongly is on abortion; asked whether there should be a less strict policy on the issue—59 percent said no, while 37 percent answered yes.

To a greater or lesser extent, these views may be shared by many Catholics around the world.

He had his critics. But what many would regard as a dismaying retrogression to pre-Vatican II days (e.g., centralized church governance, a voiceless laity), he regarded as a firm stand against what he called "cafeteria Catholicism" (he may have even coined this self-explanatory phrase).

It is a measure of Pope John Paul II's character that he would not change his stance on issues in the face of increasing pressure from his flock, including a significant number of theologians, priests and nuns. It is a measure of the character of the Catholic laity, and his as well, that while they may have disagreed with his policies and ignored his injunctions, they will forever hold him in the highest esteem.

John Paul II was love. And love conquers all.

JPII Rome's poster boy

ROME—Arriving at Leonardo da Vinci Airport very early last Thursday morning, we ran into hideous traffic once we entered downtown. As Rome geared for the Pope's funeral yesterday, traffic threatened to get out of hand. To alleviate the situation, schools, offices and stores were ordered closed.

It was a sad day for the Romans to bid goodbye to the most prominent part of the city's history since 1978. And they delivered their sentiment in giant posters of John Paul II that bloomed all over the city, saying "A Dio, Grazie" (To God, Thanks) and "We Weep for You." But the balmy spring weather also had an unmistakable fiesta atmosphere, with thousands of backpackers camping on the side streets of the Vatican. It seemed like the Jubilee Year all over again, except that the crowds had quadrupled.

On the plane to Rome, I asked President Macapagal-Arroyo why she changed her mind and traveled to Rome, instead of dispatching Vice President Noli de Castro as she originally planned. (She wanted to press for the Senate's passage of the critical VAT bill.) But with the decision of most of the world leaders to attend the funeral, she had to go for two reasons: the mutual love between the Pope and the Filipinos, and the fact that the Philippines was the only Christian nation in Asia (until the emergence of East Timor).

GMA's first day in Rome was packed with activities. With RP Ambassador to the Quirinale Philippe Lullihier and four members of her official delegation, she met for lunch with the speaker of the Italian Parliament. Meanwhile, the accompanying delegation and the staff were shepherded by Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Leonida Vera to the back entrance of St. Peter's, where the cardinals, archbishops and bishops from around the world came to pay their respects to the Pope. This meant we didn't have to line up like the rest of Rome. (Police estimated that an average of 18,000 people filed past his bier per minute, waiting up for as long as 12 hours.)

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Last Thursday evening, hundreds of Filipinos in Rome gathered for a memorial Mass at the Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica with the President and her party attending. The main celebrant was Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. The OFWs, waving Pinoy flags, received GMA warmly and roared with applause when she said that the speaker of the Italian Parliament had told her that the Filipinos are the best loved foreign workers in Italy. GMA exhorted them to keep the faith and put their best foot forward. Then the Basilica, like all other churches in Rome, started an all-night vigil as a form of *lamay* for the dead Pope.

Under the gigantic bronze baldacchino of Michelangelo, just above the tomb of St. Peter, the gentle Pope lay still in his red papal robe, looking as though he was just sleeping. Cardinals, archbishops and bishops, as well as various dignitaries from many countries came to pay their respects. Among the religious leaders we spotted were prelates from the Orthodox Church.

The presence of leaders from various religious groups is testimony to the ecumenism which JPII tried so hard to build up. He was the first modern pope to enter a Jewish synagogue (and pray at the Weeping Wall in Jerusalem, one of Judaism's most sacred spots) and a Muslim mosque. He also reached out to the Protestants and apologized for whatever wrongs his Church may have committed against the Jewish people, prompting one ranking American Jewish official to say that "His contributions are historic, and probably in history, he's the best Pope the Jews ever had." He also issued apologies for the Inquisition in the 15th

century and the Crusades in the 11th century. In 1986, he invited to the town of Assisi in Italy religious leaders—the Dalai Lama and the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Sikh clerics and Zoroastrian priests, among them—for a get-together/dialogue.

Senate President Franklin Drilon opened the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Manila by asking for a one-minute silent prayer for the recently departed Pope. He paid tribute to JPII's passion for peace, unity and understanding. Later, the Polish delegation told him that his gesture brought tears to their eyes. And well it did, for the first Polish Pope is now credited hugely for having caused the fall of communism in Poland. He did this by energizing the Solidarity labor movement and helping to make it a constructive force for the renovation of Polish society.

Time Magazine, in its recent commemorative issue on JPII, wrote that "The election of a Polish Pope posed an immediate challenge to Poland's Soviet-backed regime, a challenge John Paul quickly made with two visits home." Time noted that JPII played a difficult balancing act between championing the labor union and his resolve that no Polish blood be spilled. As another writer, Stefan Chwin, put it, "The awareness that a 'Polish pope' was in the Vatican was a source of great strength to the Polish people, and provided the impulse for the birth of the Solidarity movement."

Another account says that during JPII's third visit in June 1987, which coincided with the National Eucharistic Congress that drew a million people into Warsaw, the government of General Jaruzelski made it clear it wanted him to steer clear of the movement. But he ignored the warning and took every opportunity to praise Solidarity. It's now thought that his unwavering faith in the movement and his discussions with Lech Walesa and Jaruzelski paved the way for the legalization of Solidarity. The pivotal event was a forecast of the remarkable changes that would sweep through the communist world in 1989, leading to its eventual demise.

A humble but significant life

"I THINK of myself first of all as a day-care teacher," Germelyn Esparrago told me a few years ago, by way of explaining what had so upset her. Reporting for work one morning at the day-care center in her urban poor community in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, she found the one-room structure had been demolished the night before on the orders of the barangay chairman.

Germelyn told me the story so I could write about it and, perhaps, call the attention of the city authorities about the barangay chairman's heavy-handed style.

I did write about the incident but never found out what happened afterwards. I do know, though, that Germelyn and the other mothers of Pinasama, their people's organization, managed to get their day-care operations up and running again. In fact, Pinasama was one of the finalists in last year's "Panibagong Paraan," a "marketplace" where innovative development projects from around the country competed for funding from various bodies, including the World Bank, the UNDP foreign embassies and local foundations. I can still remember joining a triumphant group and hugging Germelyn and the other Pinasama women when their project—to mainstream children with disabilities in the day-care system—was named one of the awardees.

And that is how I largely remember Germelyn—smiling, enthused, full of life and energy, but always focused on her goals, which centered on the development of urban poor communities and the empowerment of women, especially of mothers, and their children.

The sudden death of someone so young always comes as a shock, but especially so when she is a woman like Germelyn, who seemed to fill every room she was in with her infectious news and spirit. It was difficult to reconcile news of her death—due to food poisoning aggravated by a severe asthma attack—with one's memories of her. But, perhaps, remembering Germelyn and telling the story of her life, humble and yet significant, is the best way to honor her memory.

MAGAZINES and lifestyle sections, in obser-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



vance of Women's Month in March, ran stories asking young women who their "role models" are. For the most part, the women cited as role models were international and national figures—in politics, business, media and entertainment, society—women best known for their intellect, wealth, abilities, beauty and fame.

Certainly, a woman like Germelyn would never have made it to anyone's list, perhaps not even her own, for lack of ego was one of Germelyn's more endearing traits. But I reserve my greatest admiration for women like her, who devote their lives and energies to worthwhile causes even if "practicality" dictates that the time and effort they expend on such volunteer work be put to use augmenting their meager family income.

People's organization leaders like Germelyn are, like the widow in the Bible, giving of their substance. They tirelessly volunteer their time and their concern, never demanding recognition or honor, even if others gain national prominence in part because of their support and hard work.

For Germelyn, the road to her involvement in social causes started with a basic orientation for day-care workers given by Index, a support group for social development workers, when she herself was a young mother in 1987. Though her heart remained in day care, becoming a strong advocate and a respected trainer of day-care teachers, Germelyn became recognized as a community organizer and PO leader, helping organize Pinasama in 1987. She was one of the first urban poor leaders to undergo training, through a project headed by Hasik and Saligan, in community-based initia-

tives against violence against women, and she became active in women's organizations, as vice president of "D2KA," a federation of women's groups in District 2 of Quezon City; as a member of Abansel Pinay; as a steering committee member of Education-Network; and as a board member of the Women's Action Network for Development (WAND). In 2001, she was appointed as a commissioner, representing the urban poor, of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).

BORN in Gamay, Northern Samar, Germelyn was married to Edwin Esparrago and left behind four children, ranging in age from teens to three years.

I had failed to make it to her memorial service, but I was told it was well-attended by her neighbors and colleagues from Pinasama and friends she had made among the many women's groups she had worked with, especially Pilipina and WAND.

Because she died so suddenly, it was up to her friends among the women's groups to raise funds so that everyone who loved Germelyn, who had been touched by her life of commitment to the betterment of her community and of her neighbors, could bid her a proper farewell. Contributions for Germelyn's bereft family are still welcome. Please call Pilipina at Tel. No. 927-6349 for arrangements.

ON THE MORNING after our wedding night, my husband and I received a call from our good friends Domeng and Esther Uy "commanding" us to pass by their home in Pasay before we drove up to Baguio on our honeymoon. When we got there, they placed before each of us a bowl of misua soup with a hard-boiled egg in it, which we were to consume to ensure a long and prosperous married life.

That's the kind of friends they were. So it was with some dismay that we heard news of Domeng's passing early this week at the age of 72. His remains lie in state at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Sta. Mesa and will be brought to the Heritage Park for cremation on Sunday after the Mass at 8 a.m. Our deepest sympathies to Esther and their son Jeffrey.

At long last, a Katipunan Memorial

IT'S been a long wait for these people. A hundred and nine years to be exact. But in this country, you learn how to be patient. Finally, the ordinary men and women of the Katipunan will finally be recognized with their names inscribed in a memorial in Rizal Park. Last Tuesday, the National Historical Institute announced the launching of a competition for the design of that long-awaited monument. The prize of P50,000, courtesy of Filipino Heritage Festival Inc., will be awarded on May 28, Flag Day.

Now, whether there is money for the construction of the monument is another story, but it's possible our national leaders will find a way to provide the funds if only to avoid embarrassment. After all, we wouldn't have been here if it hadn't been for those forgotten Filipinos. What if no one had listened to Andres Bonifacio, if he hadn't been able to recruit anyone to the cause—what would have happened? The thing is we keep erecting monuments in honor of the generals, but what about the foot soldiers?

All this started when my late brother, Architect Umberto Lammoglia, decided to translate the daily reports and events of the revolution as published in the 19th century daily, *El Comercio*. Included in those reports were the names of people arrested, imprisoned, executed or exiled. A lot of them were ordinary people—vendors and fishermen, etc. who bore the sign of the Katipunan in their arms. Nobody has ever bothered honoring them before.

So now, if Chairman Ambeth Ocampo of the NHI did nothing else in his term but built that monument, it would still be a rare accomplishment. Of course, there are problems. The original idea was to transfer the Gomburza monument to the Agrifina Circle, and install the Katipunan monument across the National Museum. Unfortunately, Sen. Richard Gordon preempted the Gomburza site for Lapu-Lapu's statue. Rizal Park having been dedicated to the heroes of the 1896 Revolution, it would make more sense to have the Gomburza or the Katipunan memorial rather

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



than the Cebuano datu's monument there. But what can you do?

Just in case you have not seen the announcement, the design competition is open to all Filipinos (no negotiated contracts here; we want you to be able to identify with it). I'm taking the opportunity to reprint NHI's press release on this matter:

"The Wall of Remembrance will memorialize Filipinos who were imprisoned, exiled or executed in the fight for independence during the 1896 revolution. It is envisioned that the wall will provide a sense of historical continuity in Rizal Park, as present day park visitors will be made aware of the connection between the Gomburza martyrdom [and] the rise of Rizal, [leading] to the stirrings of nationhood among the masses whose struggles finally [gave birth to the Filipino nation]. Here are the names of the men and women, long forgotten, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for our freedom.

"The design competition was formally launched on April 5, 2005 by the NHI in coordination with the National Parks Development Committee, Art Association of the Philippines, the Society of Philippine Sculptors (SPS) and the Filipino Heritage Festival Inc. The design proposal should include the concept paper, drawings, cost estimates, timetable and a three-dimensional model.

"Application forms may be secured from the Historic Preservation Division of the NHI located at T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila; telephone numbers (02) 523-0905, (02) 523-1039 and (02) 301-7727. Deadline for submission shall be on May 25, 2004.

The competition is open to all Filipino citizens.

"The proposed Wall of Remembrance shall be installed at the Teodoro Valencia Circle (formerly Agrifina Circle) in Rizal Park. The artist may infuse his design with other abstract or representational features that would pay tribute to the Bagumbayan martyrs. The design of the wall should include the Bagumbayan martyrs' names, which should be etched or inscribed. All submissions should reflect the themes of martyrdom, nationalism and love of country. A selection committee will be created by the NHI to specifically evaluate and choose the winning design.

"The winning artist will be required to collaborate with the NHI, the NPDC, the AAP and the SFS regarding the construction/installation of the work. The general concept of the public sculpture is that it should be appropriate to the site and to the place of martyrdom that was the Luneta. It should be viewed and experienced without complicated explanation. It should educate, stimulate and engage people and instill in them a sense of pride."

Although it shouldn't be taller than Rizal's monument, it should be visible from great distances and should be constructed of durable materials (concrete, granite, marble, bronze or mixed media). The budget for the project, including cost of materials, labor and implementation, could run up to P3 million. Ramon Orlina thinks this is too little, so we're open to any assistance from congressmen, senators, private companies or individuals, who are willing to contribute either money, materials, or cost of labor. Thank you in advance.

I have a couple of questions though: If you're in the wilds of Cotabato or in the island of Burias and want to submit a design, how do you get the application forms? I also don't know if Dr. Jose Rizal's name or the Gomburzas' have to appear in the monument, considering that they already have their memorials. However, this is a matter of opinion.

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

A carabao's-eye view

BORN in the fertile agricultural land of Makilala, Cotabato, I grew up being familiar with farming and the people involved in it. In my neighborhood, most people depend on farming as the only or primary source of livelihood. And, although I myself do not belong to a farming family, I learned many things about farming from my close relatives who were with non-government organizations engaged in agricultural development.

Farmers have always been recognized as the backbone of Philippine society for they collectively share the social responsibility of feeding the Filipino people. Sadly, however, most of the farmers hardly have enough resources to feed their own families, or to provide them with other basic needs, e.g., quality education.

And lacking in education, most Filipino farmers seldom get to participate meaningfully in formulating policies, laws and programs that affect their lives in local, national and international levels. Worse, most of them hardly know their rights as farmers, thus making them very vulnerable to exploitation and poverty.

In my younger days, observing the socio-economic situation in our place, I saw the big gap between the small-scale farmers and the well-to-do entrepreneurs who, in fact, profited from the farmers' produce.

But the days of my childhood have long passed. The old favorite books have been replaced by new ones, classroom discussions have introduced fresh ideas, and conversations with other people now cover a wider range of topics and interests.

But after many years of framing strategies and techniques, a skill honed from past studies, the question struck me: What has happened to the Filipino farmers? And it brought my thoughts back to the familiar farmworkers of my childhood—and I looked up for the answers through my Research Method class.

I wanted to get the true profile of the small-scale Filipino farmer in contemporary Philippine agricultural economy. And soon, I found myself—hope and excitement all over me—in Los Amigos, Tugbok and in Wangan, Calinan—two neighboring communities in the semi-rural, semi-urban parts of Davao City. I met the farmers there, face to face, as if they had been waiting for me, ready and willing not only to share their thoughts about Philippine farming but also to reveal their very lives as farmers.

I remember Manong Tibaw. He was a small, thin, friendly-looking man with seemingly Vietnamese features. An active farmer-leader, he talked of many concerns and told me many things about farming, and he certainly helped a lot in the development of my research.

There was Manang Edaliza, the dark, stout woman in her golden years. Manang Edaliza had been in Los Amigos for more than 34 years. She said she worked with her husband, in the 1.2667-hectare farm acquired under the government's land reform program. She never lost her timid smile during our conversation.

I also still remember the shy Manang Agnes, Ate Lorna (who answered my questions with curt replies), and the oh-so-talkative Ate Vicky (who spent most of the interview narrating about the family with whom she had a dispute over the land that she and her family now cultivates). There were also the 38-year-old bachelor, Kuya Raul, who devoted much of his time to his farm, the petite Manang Kiling who was very proud of her backyard garden, and the 67-year-old Lolo Wilfredo who kept on answering my questions in English.

Asked about their present situation in relation to the other sectors in the agricultural economy, one of them answered that the farmers should take the lead and should not be made mere "instruments" of large agricultural corporations. Someone lamented about his present condition, bitter about his life as a farmer amid the declining prices of farm products, which to him was the worst problem the farmers faced.

Pitiful indeed is the Filipino farmer, others attested. Farming needs, like chemicals and other production inputs, are very costly. "We buy the requirements at high cost, but we can only sell our farm produce at a low price," murmured one. The farmer is being pushed to the limits, others added, no thanks to exploitative big business and greedy politicians.

The situation is depressing, many agreed, they have to look for better ways to improve their lives. Then somebody suggested about restoring nature and the environment. Another one said that as farmers, they should own the land they till, that they must be secure in the possession of their land, that a farmer will not care for the land if he does not own it.

That farmers have long been exploited is an issue that every Filipino is familiar with for decades now. Still, it is appalling how they earn the least among those who make their living from the land, even as when they have the most important role as producers of food.

If one listens to the ideas and opinions of farmers, he or she will realize how basic and simple their pleas and aspirations are—a sustainable life in farming. But this will not come about until their rights are given genuine recognition.

"But where is the carabao in all these?" Right, the Filipino farmer can be compared to the seemingly tireless animal that assists him in tilling the land—the water buffalo, the "carabao." If the carabao wants to live, it must help its master, to plow the field. And as his master's old reliable servant, it interacts and creates other relationship with other life species—the leeches in the muddy water, the mosquitoes around it, the green weeds it treads on, etc. One wonders if it, finds farm life great.

In the same way, if the farmer wants to survive, he has to work in the field to support his master—the loved ones that he must provide with food.

But, in a sense, I am also a carabao doing a job in the field—as a student completing my requirements, as a citizen, wanting to help my country in my own (definitely) little way, and as a person looking for my purpose in life.

Still, I have my own biases. I just hope that whatever my views are, they reflect the hearts and minds of the suffering Filipino.

And yes, you are a carabao, too, even if you are cultivating the very different field of the intellect. Do well with your work and make your master happy and contented.

Giusepphine T. Barro, 20, is a senior student at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao, taking up BA Social Sciences.

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Pacquiao as bigger boxer

THE STATEMENT of Erik Morales after his victory that he was "too big" for Manny Pacquiao should not be taken literally. Morales did not refer to his size but to his punching prowess and skills as the more seasoned pugilist. In this regard, I beg to disagree, noting that he was unable to beat Antonio Barrera who lost to Pacquiao via a TKO in the 11th round.

The main cause of Pacquiao's defeat was the eyelid injury caused by a head butt. With blood oozing from the wound, Pacquiao's eyesight was impaired, adversely affecting his defense and offense. But although Pacquiao was ripe for the kill, Morales failed

to knock him down. If Morales suffered the same injury, no doubt, he would have been floored by Pacquiao and he would not have survived the full route.

On the other hand, despite his injury, Pacquiao dauntlessly fought back like a wounded tiger until the 12th round. In the last rounds, Pacquiao managed to unleash powerful counter and offensive punches that kept Morales at bay.

As an experienced boxing judge, I scored the fight 117-116 in favor of Morales. If one point had been deducted against the score of Morales for the head butt, it would have been a draw. Sad to say, the referee, who is the most

powerful man inside the ring, saw it as a legitimate blow.

Pacquiao lost but his was a heroic defeat; he fought valiantly with all his might and he almost toppled Morales in the 12th round. In fact, after the fight, the prestigious Ring Magazine still ranks Pacquiao No. 1 in his division.

Due to the closeness of the fight, Pacquiao deserves a rematch at a neutral ground. The next fight should be officiated by neutral ring officials to prove who is really the better and "bigger" boxer.

—DODONG L. FLORES,
Glan, Sarangani Province

Improved water service in east Metro Manila

KUDOS to the INQUIRER's recent articles calling on Metro Manila's water concessionaires to improve their services in light of the government's proposal to levy a tax for the use of water from the ground, rivers, lakes and other resources.

Just to clarify:

1. The proposed raw water charge is an issue being raised by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB). The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the two Metro Manila water concessionaires have not been officially informed about this plan.

2. For Manila Water's over 5 million residents living and working in the east zone of Metro Manila, the prospects of improved supply of clean and affordable water, and the aggressive expansion of much-needed wastewater services infrastructure, have already become a reality. This, after only seven years into the most unique and successful public-private sector partnership in the world.

3. Manila Water, the Ayala-led

concessionaire, services half of Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, a major part of Makati, the San Andres and Sta. Ana districts in Manila, and the far-flung cities and municipalities of Rizal. Since taking over the operation of the east zone from the MWSS, Manila Water has achieved the following:

- Laid and replaced over 800 kilometers of new pipelines, and installed more than 250,000 additional household connections since 1997, the majority of which belong to the low-income sector. This resulted in billed volume of 825 million liters a day (mld)—the highest since the takeover (only 440 mld in 1997).

- Brought down systems losses (water lost through leaks and illegal connections), technically termed as non-revenue water (NRW), to an all-time low of 42 percent as of end March 2005, from 63 percent in 1997, due to a relentless network-expansion and pipe-replacement program. This translates to roughly 385 mld saved since the company was privatized.

- Dramatically expanded the network of customers enjoying 24-hour water supply—nearly four-fold—to 89 percent of the east zone population as of end 2004 from only 26 percent at the start of the concession period in 1997. Since then, Manila Water's customer base has increased by more than two million people, nearly half of whom live in low-income communities.

4. A bright future lies ahead for our customers in the east zone, notwithstanding temporary dry spells brought about by future El Niños and the like. As part of our plans to further strengthen the network, as well as expand the service eastward to areas like Antipolo, Taytay and other parts of Rizal province, Manila Water is deep into an aggressive capital expenditure program to the tune of up to P4 billion a year, or a total of P20 billion in the next five years.

—JOEL D. LACSAMANA,
corporate
communications director,
Manila Water Company



Wrong measure of success

I CAN'T help but react to the Youngblood article "A simple life," and admire its author, Kitchie Canlas. (PDI, 3/24/05) But at the same time, I can't help but shake my head: my countrymen are being punished with a miserable life through no fault of their own.

An obviously intelligent, kind-hearted person like Kitchie gets a measly salary, while all around her corruption and chaos go unabated. Then you hear of travel advisories from Western countries about possible terrorist attacks, and that completes the whole package. Why the Philippines? Why the Filipinos? To think of all that talent going to waste, to be exploited, just so a very undeserving few can live like kings.

Last time I expounded on the advantages of living in a civilized country, somebody went on a tirade, saying that she is better off because everybody calls her ma'am, and that she employs two household helpers. Which is exactly what's wrong with the mentality over there; people think that if you can exploit other people, then your stature increases.

In that sense, everything becomes nonsense. And people like Kitchie will forever suffer the consequences. I hope they'll wake up and realize that there are far better opportunities in life. Unless, of course, you're a "doctor" employing two maids, called ma'am; and you take that as a measure of success!

—RICHARD SALDONIDO,
rsaldonido@yahoo.co.uk

Misleading information

THE LETTER of Michael Carmen of Malanday, Valenzuela (PDI, 3/24/05) is full of wrong information and contentious claims. It should be answered to set the record straight.

1. "The law paves the way for the exploitation of our marine resources, ancestral territories, watersheds....etc." This claim is alarmist and one-sided. Carmen should realize that there are existing laws protecting such places, notwithstanding the mining law. Of course, the implementation of the law depends on the political will, competence and ethical values of those who are supposed to enforce it. But that is another matter which is not directly related to large-scale mining.

What happened in Compostela (i.e., social conflicts/militarization etc.) was not caused by large-scale mining. It was caused more by a decadent morality and social discipline.

2. "The law opens approximately 7 million hectares of lands in Mindanao to large-scale mining." If only that were true—the Philippines should be a rich nation with the biggest mining resources in the world! Trouble is, having 7

million hectares for exploration does not guarantee having 7 million hectares for large-scale mining operation.

3. "Large-scale mining is more disastrous and fatal because in processing gold, it uses cyanide which is more dangerous than mercury." Mercury is an element and will not break down any further. It will forever be a lethal toxic ingredient in the environment when released. Cyanide is a compound and, over a short time, will biodegrade into harmless components—carbon and nitrogen. It's also readily diluted by water if and when released in the environment.

Filipinos should realize that the country is competing in the global market in creating "real wealth." If Filipinos do not welcome foreign investment in the very risky business of mining, then they better risk more capital for local ventures, for the development of the country—or else they can just keep on praying to high heavens that their fecundity may continue to promote the exportation of more overseas Filipino workers.

—ALEXANDER PO,
alegra1230@hotmail.com

Missing wall

AS a little boy, I had been in awe of my grandfather Felix Cajulis y Samedra. I still am. His name was inscribed on a wall of the old Palma Hall of the UP College of Law in Padre Faura, Manila, along with those of Manuel A. Roxas, Ricardo Paras Jr. and several others, who were collectively known as the "Famous Class of 1913."

The old Palma Hall now houses the Department of Justice. A visit to that place did not show any sign of the wall inscription. Mezzanines have been constructed for office spaces.

Is there someone who can help me know what happened to that piece of wall? A picture of the wall with the names inscribed, or any old newspaper or magazine article with such description would suffice. I am an now an ailing 70-year-old, ready to give up on most anything, except this ghost of a memory.

Thank you for any assistance you can give.

—RAUL S. CAJULIS,
4512 Clemsford Drive,
Virginia Beach, VA 23456,
raulnora@yahoo.com

Coco-diesel sale in all gas stations eyed

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expresses its deepest appreciation to Frank E. Lobrigo who wrote about his personal experience with coconut methyl ester (CME) or biodiesel. (PDI, 3/16/05) He said in his letter, titled "Tree of the future," that his SUV now runs faster and smoother, with the engine noise and smoke emission significantly reduced.

Lobrigo's experience affirms the commitment of the government to promote, through the DOE, a stable and reliable supply of clean energy, as

well as to speed up the growth of the coconut industry with countryside development in view. In fact, no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Memorandum Circular No. 55 on Feb. 9, 2004 directing all departments, bureaus, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned and -controlled corporations, to use CME for their diesel requirements.

On Lobrigo's observation that coco diesel cannot be found in gasoline stations, we would like to tell the public

that since September last year, CME products, such as Envirotek and BioExceed, are already available in selected Flying V and Seaoil stations in various parts of the country. Negotiations are underway with Shell, Petron and Caltex for the sale of CME in their outlets.

—HELEN B. ARIAS,
chief, Consumer Welfare
and Promotion Office,
Department of Energy,
Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

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The heavy price of maternal, childhood deaths

COMMENTARY

Dr. Shigeru Omi

EXPECTANT mothers in the developing world face a harrowing fate with almost clock-like regularity: every minute, a woman dies during pregnancy or in childbirth. In all, more than half a million women die each year from pregnancy-related causes—in the rural villages of Southeast Asia, in the remote archipelagos of the Pacific, in the deserts of sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere.

Sadly, many of these deaths can be prevented with measures that are affordable and can easily be implemented.

Children in the developing world face even greater odds than mothers: one in every 12 children dies before reaching his or her fifth birthday. Of the 10.6 million young children who die each year, 40 percent don't live past their first month of life. Most of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, chiefly among the poorest of the poor. Once again, many of these deaths can be prevented with readily available interventions.

As tragic as these statistics are, maternal and child mortality rarely gets the public attention it deserves. Compare this with the kind of attention routinely devoted to traffic accidents. Yet, for every two people killed in road mishaps somewhere in the world, one mother and 20 children die from causes that can be prevented and treated with measures that are affordable and can easily be implemented.

The death of an expectant mother, or the loss of an infant or young child, brings unbearable heartbreak, inflicting emotional wounds that never fully heal. The hopes and dreams that accompany every pregnancy and every birth are dashed in an instant, shaking to its foundation each and every family such a tragedy befalls.

Beyond the human toll, these

preventable deaths also carry a heavy cost for societies and communities. When a mother dies, her productive contribution to her home, her workplace and the economy is lost forever. Her death jeopardizes the education and very survival of her offspring. Every year, an estimated one million young children die as a result of the death of their primary caregiver, their mother.

But when mothers survive and thrive, their children also survive and thrive. Our investment in maternal and child health is not just a moral obligation, for it also pays hefty dividends by reducing social welfare costs, increasing productivity and creating stronger economies. Recent estimates tell us that every dollar invested in child health will return \$7 in terms of reduced spending on welfare and increased economic productivity of young people and adults.

The problems of maternal and child mortality are particularly acute in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. These regions account for more than half of the estimated 515,000 women who die annually from pregnancy-related causes. Many of these deaths could be prevented by something as simple as treatment for anemia, infections and high blood pressure. Tens of thousands of pregnant women could be saved each year if only they had the assistance of a skilled attendant during childbirth, and access to emergency obstetric care in case of complications.

Young children in Asia and in the Pacific are in even greater danger. More than 12 percent of the children

born in Cambodia will die before they reach the age of 5. The percentage is nearly as high in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea. In China, the Philippines and Vietnam, nearly 4 percent of newborns will not reach their fifth birthday. Millions of these young children can be saved with nothing more than antibiotics to treat pneumonia, insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria, the presence of skilled attendants during childbirth, and better education of mothers about the benefits of early and continued breast-feeding.

Action to stem this tide of senseless and unnecessary deaths requires greater public awareness, more effective leadership by politicians and public health officials, and, of course, the commitment of greater financial resources.

That is why the World Health Organization adopted maternal, newborn and child health as its focus in the April 7 celebration of World Health Day, for which the slogan is "Make every mother and child count." In doing so, we hope to refocus international attention on goals set five years ago when the world's largest gathering of heads of state adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Among the goals set out in that historic document was a pledge to reduce child mortality by two-thirds and maternal mortality by three-fourths between 1990 and 2015.

Now is the time for international organizations, national governments, public health advocates and individual communities to redouble their efforts to meet those goals.

Working together, let's demonstrate that every mother, and every child, in Asia really does count.

Dr. Shigeru Omi is World Health Organization director for the Western Pacific.

INQUIRER *Visayas*Tumandok folk
push fight for
ancestral landBy Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Tapaz, Capiz

THEY came, toddlers in tow and many walking for more than half a day crossing rivers and gorges and trudging along narrow mountain paths.

They had been taking the trek every two years since their first tribal assembly was held in December 1996.

For both the old and the young of the Tumandok, Panay's largest indigenous group, the assembly held on March 11-13 in the hinterland village of Katipunan was a celebration of their rich indigenous culture and tradition.

More importantly, they were there to again affirm their struggle to regain their ancestral land.

Around 800 members vowed to reclaim the 33,310 hectares of land that have been transformed into a military reservation since 1962.

Currently occupied by the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, the land is considered the country's biggest military camp next to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. It covers 16 of the 22 upland villages of Tapaz town and seven villages of Jamindan town, both in Capiz.

"Our land is our life and we are willing to die fighting for it," said Roy Giganto, chair of the Tumandok nga Mangunguma nga Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kabuhi (Tumandok).

An organization of indigenous communities in central Panay, Tumandok called for the repeal of Presidential Proclamation No. 67 issued by then President Diosdado Macapagal, which declared the land a military reservation.

"Until [the proclamation] is repealed, we shall remain squatters on the land that our elders have tilled and where they are buried," said Giganto, who is also the village chair of Lahug.

He pointed out that his people were "never consulted" when the proclamation was issued. "The land has always been ours, not theirs."

The indigenous group, also called Sulodnon or the Panay Bukidnon by scholars, is known for its rich culture and oral tradition which has been preserved since it built communities in the heartland of Panay even before the Spanish colonizers arrived in the Philippines.

Around 15,000 members of the group live in Tapaz, 12,000 in Calinog town in Iloilo, and 6,000 in Jamindan.

Ancestral domain

In January, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) to members of the group covering 252 households in the villages of Garangan, Masaroy and Agcalaga in Calinog. The first to be issued to an indigenous group in Panay, the title covers 1,748.897 ha of land.

But Giganto said his community was wary of the declaration. The CADT, he said, did not guar-

antee ownership of the land.

He insisted that the repeal of Proclamation 67, not the CADT, would bring back the land to the people.

Capiz officials are supporting the Tumandok struggle.

Provincial board member Gilbert Ardivilla has sponsored a resolution calling on the President and concerned government agencies and departments to repeal the proclamation. It was the third resolution of its kind to be passed by the board in the past several years.

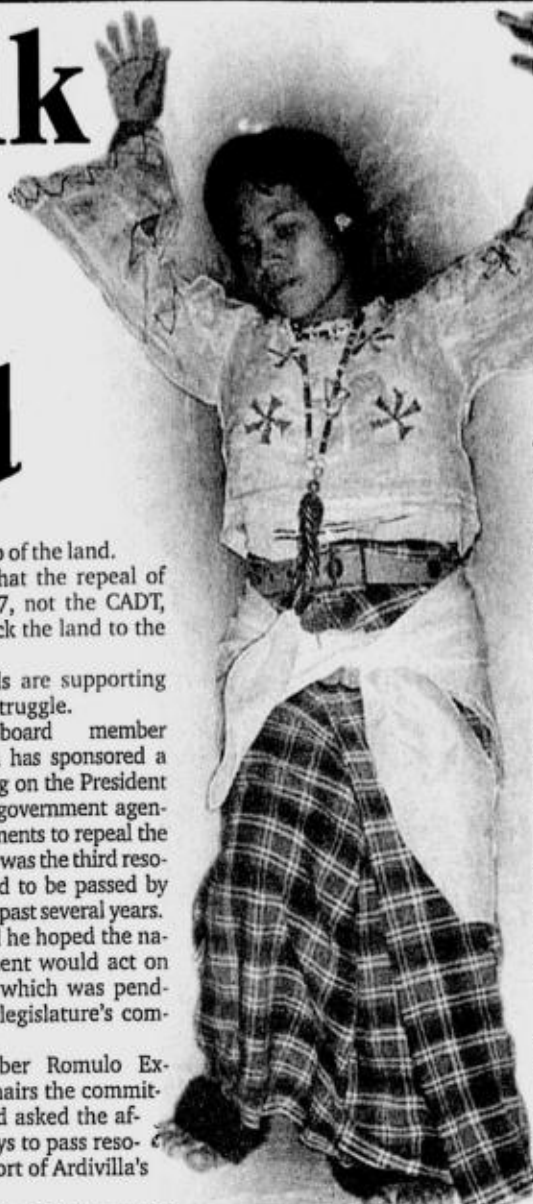
Ardivilla said he hoped the national government would act on his resolution, which was pending before the legislature's committee on laws.

Board member Romulo Exmundo, who chairs the committee, said he had asked the affected barangays to pass resolutions in support of Ardivilla's proposal.

He acknowledged that it would be "difficult" for the President to work for the repeal of a proclamation issued by her father. "But we hope that if she sees that we have the backing of the people and the necessary documents, she will be convinced of the legal and moral bases of repealing it," he said.

Ms Arroyo has ordered the Department of Land Reform and the Department of National Defense to address the ownership claim. Earlier, Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa said the military was resisting the Tumandok's claim.

Commissioner Lagtum Pasag of the National Commission on



A YOUNG Tumandok girl performs the Binanog dance.

NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said the military camp occupied around 1,000 ha within the reservation. He said the delineation of areas being claimed by the indigenous group and the reservation was still needed.

Win-win solution

Maj. Lyndon Sollesta, spokesperson of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said they would abide by the decision of the national gov-

ernment on the ownership dispute. "We are custodians, not owners, of the land," he said.

Sollesta said the military wanted to exhaust all possible efforts for a "win-win solution."

One option was to relocate the community in a "safe" area away from Mt. Pula, which is being used for live fire exercises, he said.

Giganto dismissed the proposal. "They (Army soldiers), not us, are the squatters on this land," he said.

In the workshops during the Tumandok assembly, the participants decried the presence of soldiers in their communities. They claimed that the soldiers had committed abuses and raised fear among residents in the hinterland barangays.

They said they could not go to their farms during military operations for fear of being suspected to be supporters or informants of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

One resident, who declined to be identified, said soldiers insisted on staying at their houses during operations. "They keep insisting even after we told them that we might be caught in the crossfire because they have enemies,"

He said the women were also uncomfortable and afraid whenever soldiers slept in their houses.

The military has considered the tribal communities hotbeds of the communist insurgency since the martial law period in the 1970s.

Military officials have branded the Tumandok organization as a "front organization" of the rebels. Its complaints are "rehashed and instigated by the NPA," they said.

Sollesta denied allegations that soldiers committed harassment and abuses during operations.

He accused militant groups, such as the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Kilusang Mayo Uno, of "fabricating issues." These groups have "used and blinded" the indigenous group for their own political purposes, he said.

Giganto said their poverty, daily hardships and desire to regain their land "drive us to protest, not the NPA or any other group."

"We have been airing the same demands because they have not listened to us," he added.

Despite the uncertainty, the Tumandok people continue to celebrate their rich culture and are proud of their legacy of resistance against those they consider usurpers of their land.

Village representatives performed the traditional Binanog dance and the ambahan until past midnight on the last day of the assembly. They depicted rituals on planting, hunting and harvesting.

'Reclaim our land'

In reaffirming their cause, the participants honored around 80 "martyrs" who were killed or had died since the martial law period.

Among them was Elena Gardose, one of their noted chanters, who was awarded by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1992 for storytelling in the vernacular. Her chants were made as a reference in plays and cultural presentations, among them the "Hinalawod."

Gardose died on May 31, 2004, in Barangay Carbasana in Tapaz at the age of 110. She was one of the most famous Binukot (well-kept maiden), who was trained to chant since she was a child.

Even up to the last moments of her life, Gardose still called for the return of her people's ancestral land.

She even performed the "Sugidadon" (epic chanted in the archaic Panay language called the *dagil* or *ligbok*) days before she died, said her son, Samuel Francisco.

Despite her weakness, she had wanted to go around the villages to stress the importance of passing on their culture to succeeding generations and to continue fighting for their land.

As she wished, she was buried along the path walk on the boundary of Barangays Jaena Sur and Carbasana so that her relatives and people could gather there during her death anniversary.

Her remains were wrapped in Tumandok garb before being placed inside a coffin made of red *lauaan* wood.

Upon her instructions, her last words before she died were inscribed on her tomb: "Lupa dapat bawion (Reclaim our land)."

Specialty coffee calls
shots in Iloilo CityBy Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

COFFEE is getting stranger these days. In Davao City, they have durian coffee. Iloilo City is not about to get left behind and so, one enterprising specialty coffee shop came up with the ultimate competition—mango coffee.

Before you say "yuck!", this mango coffee served as a frappé called Mangonilla is one of the three bestsellers at Blue Jay Specialty Coffee, one of the many coffee shops that have sprouted in suddenly coffee-crazy Iloilo City.

Blue Jay, located at the new yuppie watering hole that is Smallville Business Center on Pison Street, Benigno Aquino Avenue (Diversion Road), has catered to the Ilonggos' need for variety in their coffee.

Blue Jay managing director Arlene See Juan Tong said that in the course of operating the coffee shop since Oct. 28, 2004, she found that Iloilo coffee drinkers differed from the typical ones in that they actually wanted their "drowned" in other flavors.

And it's not just the coffee, said Arlene. She made sure that Blue Jay, at 105 square meters and designed with a contemporary touch, would be a place where after-dinner people, their friends or clients can go for intimate conversations, unhampered by loud music and cigarette smoke.

While coffee shops of the homey, undisturbed touch are a dime a dozen in other metropolises, the type where you can actually bring that client you are trying to impress and talk serious business with and relax at the same time, is rare in Iloilo City.

"This specialty coffee shop came to be because there came a time that my husband and I wanted to entertain businessmen-friends and we wanted to go to a place where they offered everything under one roof—good coffee, comfortable ambience and delicious food, and we had a hard time looking for one," said Arlene, an accountant who is also into the distribution of consumer items.

The Juan Tongs answered their own need and, thus, put up Blue Jay Specialty Coffee, often reminding clients that it is definitely not

a franchise. They sell hot coffee, blended ice drinks, chilled coffee, smoothies and crushes, Blue Jay originals, cold coffee cocktails and hot coffee cocktails.

Definitely no alcoholic drinks, because the Juan Tongs are Baptists.

To make Blue Jay stand out from other coffee shops which have become a profitable business in the city, Arlene created their own Blue Jay blend from a combination of different coffee beans. With much trial and error, research on the Internet, books and consultations with professionals in the coffee business, she came up with the Blue Jay originals, mostly frappés.

Thus was born Mangonilla with the tagline "mango like you've never tasted before," Saigon Kick, which is Vietnamese coffee "chilled out," Vanilla Bean, and Swiss Avalanche, which is coffee with a "landslide of white choco cream."

Among these originals, it's the Swiss Avalanche, Mangonilla and Saigon Kick that are the bestsellers. These cost from P65 to P85.

The only hot original Blue Jay blend as opposed to the frappés is Romano Crème, which is espresso with white chocolate and cream, and is priced at P55.

Teaming up with a chef from Manila, Arlene also came up with Blue Jay's original desserts to go with the coffee, such as Banoffee Tart, Baked Ice Cream Brownie and Chocolate Cointreau, among others. She also has pasta and pies and, in February, offered breakfast to customers.

With the stiff coffee competition from hotels, malls and other watering holes, Arlene priced her coffee at P35 for a 1.5-oz. shot of pure coffee, while frappés ranged from P65 to P85. Blended ice drinks run the gamut of P120 to P180.

Customers drink up 150 to 200 cups a day, while orders for pasta and deserts reach up to 100.

Since opening day, Arlene said there had been no major slump in earnings. Among her strategies in keeping up with competitors is constantly evolving her products, introducing new ones, maintaining good service and building a base of loyal customers.

Every quarter, Blue Jay changes its pastries, sandwiches and pasta, but the coffee variety remains almost the same.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Firm tells Vizcaya execs: Go to court

By Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—An official of a foreign firm dared provincial officials here to seek court action if they wanted to compel the company to pay the benefits due to the province as host of a power-generation facility in an upland town, about 150 km from here.

Lawyer Linda Castillo, vice president for legal affairs of California Energy Casecan Water and Energy Co. (CECWECC), insisted that the company would not pay the P240 million demanded by the province, saying that the firm was supposedly barred by contracts it had forged with the national government.

CE Casecan owns and operates the Casecan multi-purpose power and irrigation project (CMIPP), which was completed in 2001 under a 25-year build-operate-transfer agreement with the then Ramos administration.

During Thursday's consultative meeting with concerned officials, Castillo admitted that the

protest filed on their tax dues over the operation of the CMIPP had blocked their intention to pay the provincial government.

CECWECC is required to pay more than P200 million for real property tax.

"We need your help on this. We wanted and we are ready to pay you. We do not want this to become our problem," Castillo said.

The meeting was called on Thursday to determine possibilities of settling the issues on the real property tax to be paid by CECWECC and share of the province from the national wealth tax which consists of energy and water usage.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, host communities of national projects, such as power-generation facilities, are mandated to receive one centavo for every kilowatt of energy sold from the project.

But since the CMIPP's start of operation in 2001, CE-Casecan has yet to pay the province its share, citing as reasons supposed legal impediments borne by its contract as an independent power producer (IPP).

"There is a clear (legal) issue as to whether or not [the national wealth share] is an imposition or just another share," she said.

"We are obligated to clarify that

(issue through the courts) because we are operating under a tax incentive program—that all taxes (we pay to local governments) are to be reimbursed by the national government," Castillo said.

Aside from the national wealth share, CE Casecan has also not paid the province some P229 million in real property taxes.

Company officials invoked a provision in a supplemental agreement they entered into in 2003 with the National Irrigation Administration and the Department of Finance that such payment of real property tax required permission from both national agencies.

Irrked by the company's evasive

moves, Gov. Luisa Lloren-Cuaresma on Thursday ordered provincial officials to initiate steps to seize the CMIPP property, through a warrant of levy, as a means for the local government to recover CE Casecan's unpaid obligations.

Such agreement, to which the provincial government is not a party, does not prevent it from going after CE Casecan for its tax obligations, according to Vice Gov. Jose Gambito.

Officials here expressed disgust that the company has brought up a new legal issue to deny the province benefits from the CMIPP after a previous controversy had been resolved to Nueva Vizcaya's favor.

Benguet execs, farmers ask GMA to put a stop to veggie importation

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Local officials and farmers from this province's 13 towns are appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to take a direct hand in stopping the importation of foreign vegetables.

The appeal came as the provincial board here expressed "disgust and dissatisfaction" over the way the Bureau of Plant Industry is conducting the consultation on the pest risk analysis (PRA) for Chinese carrots.

The farmers, meanwhile, are getting restless over the impending signing of the Philippine-China bilateral trade agreement that would pave the way for the entry of Chinese vegetables into the local market.

"We urge President Arroyo to be sensitive to our plight as farmers," Jose Andiso Sr., president of the Benguet Farmers Federation Inc. (BFF), said.

"At this time, we believe that only the President can help us since she might not be fully informed of our problem."

In a resolution, the farmers said the bilateral agreement will ultimately write finish to the province's agricultural industry, which, they noted, is already reeling from low market prices and increasing cost of farm inputs.

Alternative crop

"Continuous importation will affect the livelihood of 117,000 farmers who might resort to planting marijuana if their products will soon lose their demand and market," the resolution said.

"If importation will not be halted, we will interpret that the national government leadership will now not be the legitimate government of the poor farmers."

On April 11, Andiso said, the

BFF will picket the PRA consultation on carrots to be held at the Golden Pine Hotel in Baguio City.

The PRA on carrots will form part of the country's bilateral agreement with China.

Andiso said the farmers are apprehensive over the entry of new and additional farm pests to be possibly carried by Chinese carrots.

He said the farmers have decided to picket the forum since it aims to railroad the approval of the PRA.

BPI officer-in-charge, Dr. Clarito Barron, has denied Gov. Borromeo Melchor's request to hold the consultation at the provincial capitol here so that many farmers can attend.

This developed as the provincial board agreed to pass its own resolution condemning the way the BPI was handling the PRA consultation.

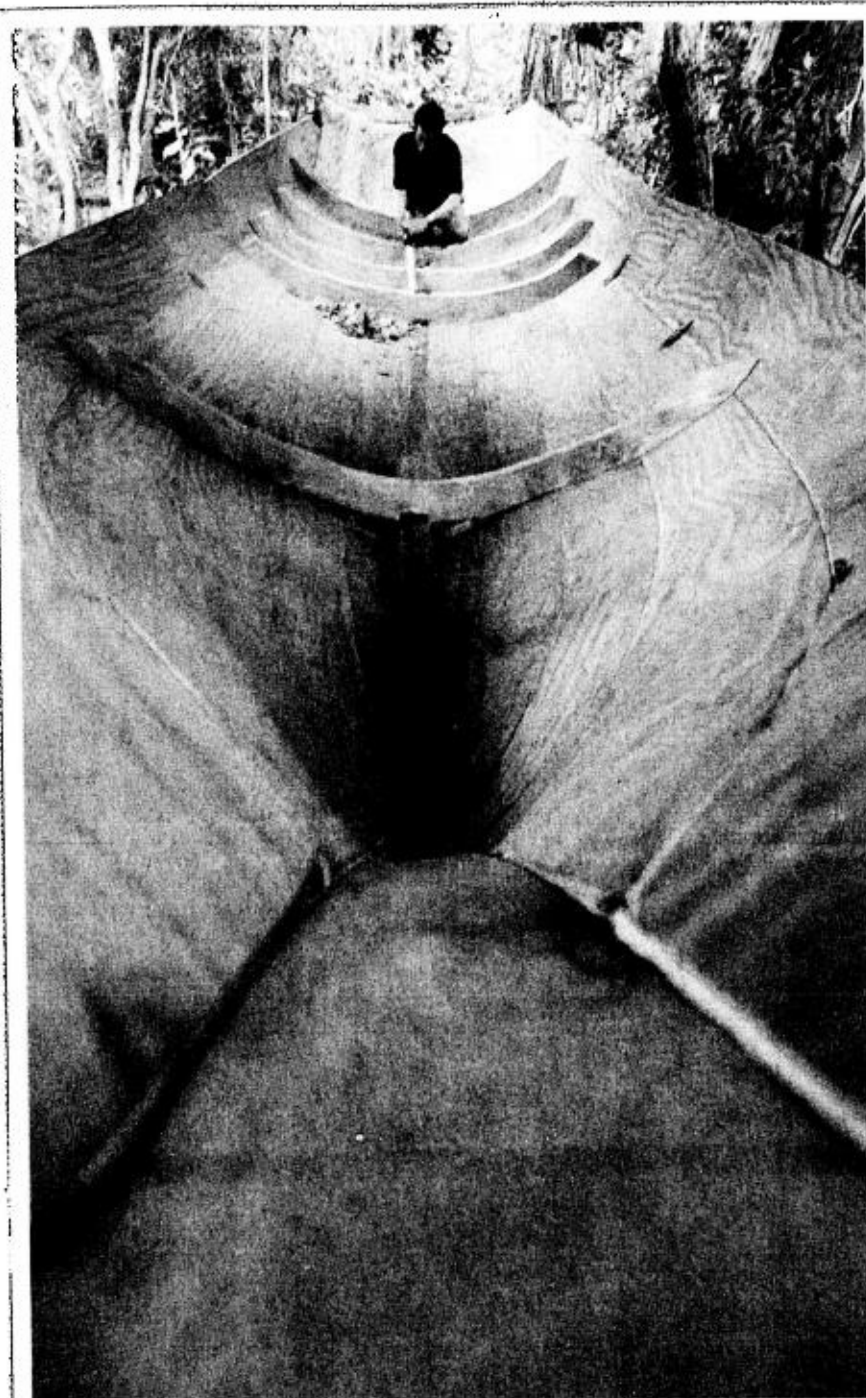
In their resolution, the farmers assailed the government's lack of political will to stop importation, saying that "if importation goes unabated, we will consider that the national government is determined to slowly kill the only source of income of the poor farmers."

The resolution also took to task Ms Arroyo's promise in her State of the Nation Address last year to generate at least two million jobs a year.

"The intention to import more is to discourage the poor farmers from engaging in agricultural endeavors like vegetable production," it said.

He said the country need not import vegetables since local farmers could produce enough of them.

Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



BELLY
Expert craftsman Cornelio Aumentado works on a traditional fishing boat called a fallowa in a remote fishing village in Batanes. Aumentado, 63, is one of the few craftsmen left who continue the tradition of making the boats which dates back to the 16th century.

Kidnappers strike again, seize Chinoy businessman in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—After a long lull, kidnappers struck again yesterday and seized a Filipino-Chinese businessman.

Benny Cota, 48, owner of Cota Marketing, was about to leave his home on Doña Teresa Street here when two gunmen on board a trisikad declared the kidnapping.

He was driving his red Tamaraw FX with license plate LCP-288 shortly before 7 a.m. when the suspects, armed with handguns, grabbed the steering wheel, according to Col. George Lomboy, chief of anti-kidnapping Task Group Kutabato.

Using the victim's vehicle, the suspects fled toward downtown area. Responding soldiers and policemen failed to locate the victim.

Lomboy immediately alerted all the soldiers manning checkpoints in the city's entry and exit points.

Henry Macion, village chair of Poblacion 4, quoting witnesses, said the abductors also used a small van known as Multicab as back-up vehicle.

Authorities warned the families of kidnap victims not to negotiate with anybody, espe-

cially in giving in to kidnappers' demand.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu cited the case of kidnap victim Zoila Cansi of Lambayong town where relatives reportedly gave a million-peso ransom to a negotiating group in exchange for the businesswoman's freedom.

Mangudadatu said despite the payment, Cansi, a soft drink dealer abducted in 2003, remains missing.

Cansi's relatives are still uncertain whether the victim is still alive.

Even the fate of car dealer Norman Sia also needs to be ascertained by the authorities. Family members said after having been informed by the police that the body recovered on Dec. 7, 2004 near a waterfall in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao was not that of Sia based on findings of a medico-legal expert.

Lomboy has also sought the help of the Coast Guard to scour possible escape routes of Cota's captors, since the city is surrounded by rivers and tributaries of the Rio Grande de Mindanao. Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

DOTC exec slain

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a regional official of the Department of Transportation and Communications here on Thursday night. He was the second regional official killed in the city in a month. In early February, unidentified gunmen shot dead regional manager Murshid Tutuh of the Philippine Ports Authority in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Senior Insp. Roger Legazpi, police station 2 chief, identified the victim as Eleazar Sombra, DOTC-Central Mindanao regional director. His wife Amor, cashier of the Telephone Office, was also wounded when two gunmen on board a motorbike fired handguns. Sombra was driving his Wrangler vehicle and his wife sat on the passenger's seat and two co-workers at the rear. The shooting happened near corner Sinsuat Avenue and Don E. Sero Street.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Criminals nabbed

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Police arrested the Cordillera's most wanted person on March 28. Reports here said Alejandro Estigoy, 21, who is facing rape charges, was arrested in his house in La Trinidad, Benguet. Estigoy was accused of raping a 14-year-old girl twice in Bugulas town this January. The police also arrested two of the region's most wanted persons in separate operations in Laguna and Abra recently. Ronnel Valera, the region's 17th most wanted person, was arrested on March 31 in San Pedro, Laguna. Valera, a native of Abra, is facing homicide charges. In Abra, the police arrested Noli Barbero, 46, 11th in the police's most wanted list, in Bangued town. He is facing frustrated murder charges.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Complaints vs water firm

CITY OF CALA-PAN—City Councilor Paul Luna has branded the new policies of the Calapan Waterworks System Development Corp. (CWSDC) as taxing to consumers. In a privilege speech on March 30, he noted that the connection fee is more than P3,000, the penalty for reconnection is P5,000, a photocopy of the land title is required and the consumer is made liable for the meter outside his house. Alex Manto, CWSDC manager, explained on a local cable program, that the fees are itemized and include expenses for a new meter, labor and new facilities for reconnection. He added that only the first six meters are shouldered by the company.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

5 cops injured

DOLORES, Quezon—At least five policemen and a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit were injured after the jeepney they were riding in lost its brakes and slammed into a tree in Barangay Mangahan, this town Thursday. The policemen were providing road security assistance to Quezon Vice Gov. David Suarez and party on the way to the town proper to attend an occasion, a police report said. The policemen injured were Insp. Amor Binas, SPO2 Johnny Unay, SPO2 Emmanuel de la Cruz, SPO1 Enrico Mabanlag, PO1 Cherry Enriquez, and one Dante Cueto, a Cagui member.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 brothers killed

GUINYANGAN, Quezon—At least two brothers were killed by masked persons on Wednesday evening in Barangay Capuluan here and were also robbed of about P180,000 in cash and jewelry. Police said the victims, Valentino Calayag Cueto, 31, and his brother Candido, 27, both farmers and residents of the said village, were in the terrace of the house, together with one Reynor Montefolka, when the suspects barged in. The suspects ordered the three to get inside the house but the brothers tried to flee causing the suspects to shoot them. Montefolka escaped unhurt. The suspects also beat up the victims' mother and ransacked the house.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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24 Cebu City villages put in calamity state

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Twenty-four mountain barangays in Cebu City were declared in a state of calamity by the city council due to the adverse effects of the El Niño phenomenon.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chair of the council's committee on social services, said that the affected barangays are suffering from scarcity of water because of the drought and insufficient rainfall for several months now.

The barangays were Adlaon, Agsungot, Binaliw, Budlaan, Busay, Guba, Mabini, Malubog, Pit-os, Pulangbato, San Jose, Si-rao, Taptap, Babag, Bonbon, Pamutan, Pung-ol Sibugay, Sapang-daku, Sinsin, Sudlon 1, Sudlon 11, Tabunan, Tagba-o and Toong.

Most of these villages produce high value crops, such as carrots, lettuce and cauliflower and cut flower.

With the declaration, the city government would be able to use its calamity fund to bring potable water to residents and to farms planted with high value crops, Carillo said.

The mountain villages get their water supply from springs and creeks, but water level has considerably dropped while in some sources have even dried up because of the long dry spell spawned by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Councilor Edwin Jagmoc, who also chairs the committee on public services, originally recommended at least 40 mountain barangays to be declared in a state of calamity.

But during the validation of the Cebu City Disaster Coordinating Council, Patubig Project and the Association of Barangay Councils (ABC), only 24 barangays were qualified to be in a state of calamity.

Carillo said the resolution, which was passed on Wednesday,

authorized Mayor Tomas Osmeña to use portion of the city's P100-million calamity fund to help the affected barangays.

Jagmoc has proposed to allocate P6 to P8 million to help the affected barangays but the Cebu City council did not put a ceiling on how much could be used to assist the affected villages.

Carillo said the city government will acquire additional water tankers to increase the volume of potable water to be rationed daily to these barangays.

The city has only three water tankers assigned to the Department of Public Services (DPS) while Barangay Busay owns a water tanker donated by House Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar (Cebu City, north district).

Carillo said city hall would also give monetary assistance to farmers to buy seedlings to allow them to replant their vegetables and cut flowers damaged by the drought.



LIVELIHOOD

A local Ivatan fisherman unloads the day's catch of non-mammalian dolphins called dorados at a fishing village in Batanes Island. Local Ivatans are believed to have descended from ancient inhabitants of Taiwan.

JAY DIRECTOR/PIA

Mayor suspends city assessor over errors in land assessments

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Mayor Oscar Rodriguez suspended the city assessor here and relieved two of his assistants for alleged "erroneous" reassessment of real property that triggered dissension among taxpayers and resulted in millions of pesos in lost revenue.

In a press forum on Wednesday, Rodriguez said he ordered the preventive suspension of City Assessor Jose de Leon and the transfer to other departments of Assistant City Assessor Luz Bautista and assessment officer Jason Catahan pending investigation.

De Leon, who used to be the city administrator of former mayor and now Pampanga Rep. Reynaldo Aquino, filed a motion for reconsideration before the city mayor's office.

Rodriguez said hundreds of lot and house owners here have been complaining about the sudden increase this year of their real property taxes (RPT) despite the five-year moratorium on the increase of such taxes provided by the law that converted this town into a city in 2001.

The moratorium is in force until next year.

Biggest error

"We discovered this erroneous and unauthorized reassessment just two weeks ago. One case involves a lot owner who used to pay only P400 tax for his property. When he came to city hall to pay his RPT, he was shocked to find out he is being charged P14,000. There's also the case of a lot without any structure that suddenly became three lots with three buildings in the computer of the assessor's office," Rodriguez said.

Alaminos beckons tourists to improved Hundred Islands

THE GOVERNMENT OF Alaminos City is inviting leisure trekkers to marvel at the crystal clear waters, pristine countryside, and exotic flora and fauna and discover caves by the sea at the Hundred Islands this summer.

"Allow us to welcome you to the Hundred Islands National Park, a paradise for local and foreign tourists," said Mayor Hernani Braganza in a press statement.

He asked travel enthusiasts to visit the Hundred Islands and experience the perfect view of the islands' natural beauty, and meet the warm and friendly people of Alaminos City.

In October it hosted a leg of the Ms Earth Pageant. Last Jan. 8, it welcomed more than 15 ambassadors and members of the

diagnosis said.

But what Rodriguez and other city officials found as the "biggest error" is the classification of many industrial and commercial establishments in this city as "residential" areas that pay much lesser RPT.

Rommel Salvador, who has been designated by Rodriguez as the acting city assessor, said during the press conference that even the vast San Miguel Corp. (SMC) Brewery Complex near the MacArthur Highway in Barangay Quebiawan had been classified as residential area.

He said before the computerization program of the city assessor's office was implemented in 1998, the property was classified as an industrial area.

"Most of the commercial establishments along the MacArthur Highway and the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo road are also classified as residential," Salvador said.

Inconsistencies

He also expressed surprise over the inconsistencies in the assessment values of business lots and buildings here.

He cited the property of the McDonald's fastfood chain on MacArthur Highway which had an assessed value of only P1,500 per square meter while that of the GAP Insurance behind had an assessed value of P6,000 per square meter.

Luningning Leanto of the Bureau of Local Government Finance said during the press forum that the bureau also considered the reassessment of real property here as "erroneous" because the lot and house owners did not receive notices of assessment as mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991.

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Cops nab 'jueteng' collectors in Batangas

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Following the denial of Batangas government officials that jueteng persists in the province, elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) swooped down on a suspected jueteng den in Bauan town proper and arrested three bet collectors.

Supt. Mario Sanga, director of the CIDG-Calabarzon, identified those arrested as Ernesto Robles, 43; Joey Rosales, 30; and Ramon de Jesus, 29, all residents of Barangay Poblacion, Bauan.

He said the three were known bet collectors in the area.

Sanga said an eight-man team of CIDG-Batangas, led by Senior Insp. Primitivo Gutierrez, raided the house in Barangay Poblacion at about 7:30 a.m. after receiving information from the residents that the results of jueteng bets will be drawn in the area.

He said other bettors, collectors and cabos in the area were able to flee.

"Our men said it was part of guerrilla jueteng operations in the area," Sanga told the INQUIRER.

Campaign

He said the raid was part of their region-wide campaign against jueteng operations in Calabarzon.

He, however, said they have yet to identify the financier of the illegal numbers game in the area and if unscrupulous members of the local police and local government authorities are receiving protection money from jueteng operators.

Confiscated from the suspects were P425 bet money and gambling paraphernalia.

Sanga said they would file charges against the suspects who are now detained at their Batangas office.

Last month, a group opposing illegal gambling accused Gov. Arman Sanchez and Rep. Hermilando Mandanas of protecting jueteng operators in Batangas. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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MOTHER and daughter, President Arroyo and daughter Lulu, cry on each other's shoulder after viewing the body of the Pope inside St. Peter's Basilica.

MALACANG PHOTO

GMA leads OFWs in cheering ...

From page A1

ence was "a great consolation" for the diocese that had just lost the Pope.

In turn, the President thanked Law and promised that Filipinos would "keep the memory" of the Pope alive through prayers and work.

In her remarks upon her arrival in Rome earlier Thursday, she said: "[John Paul] was the first Pope who took the time to celebrate a holy Mass for our overseas workers here in Rome. This is important because we have more than eight million Filipinos living and working in foreign lands, who turned to the Pope for guidance and strength..."

Primacy of the spirit

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, celebrated the Mass with San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas, Ipil Bishop Antonio Ledesma, and more than 40 Filipino priests based in Rome.

During the offertory, as though to show that they had brought to Rome their unique culture, Filipinos dressed in colorful costumes performed a ceremonial Bontoc dance of offering the goods of the earth to heaven.

In his homily, Capalla said John Paul's vision for the Philippines was "that our nation should share the values of Jesus with other Asian nations."

Capalla said the Pope set out the Philippine mission in his 1995 World Youth Day address at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila: "We must always uphold the primacy of the spirit over matter."

'Missionaries of Church'

The Philippines, according to Capalla, is strategically placed as the only Christian nation in Asia to spread the Catholic faith in the world's biggest continent.

In order to be faithful to the Pope's mission, "Filipinos should be persons of discipline. Without discipline we can hardly follow Jesus," he said.

Capalla said young Filipinos

should "subscribe to higher and noble values—love of country, love of the church, love for the poor to the extent of self-sacrifice."

But they should also "be involved in the affairs of the local churches," he said, explaining that Filipinos in Rome and the rest of Europe should gather more often in the churches to pray.

"The churches in Rome are not getting too many churchgoers," Capalla observed.

He said the Pope had called the Filipino migrant workers in Europe "the new missionaries of the Church."

Sense of home

Filipinos turning out to worship on Sunday represent hope for the clergy in Europe, where churches are usually empty but for museum-goers or elderly Caucasian women, said Msgr. Rupert Santos, rector of the Colegio Filipino, a dormitory for Filipino priests, seminarians and the religious studying, performing ecclesiastical services or doing business in Rome.

ness in Rome.

Santa Urbana is usually filled with Filipinos on Sunday. They come for the Mass celebrated in Filipino and later take the opportunity to exchange gossip and Filipino dishes, read fan magazines and romances, and generally partake of a sense of home despite being thousands of miles away from the Philippines.

Estimates of documented and undocumented Filipino workers in Italy number in the tens of thousands, said Santos.

He said 90,000 documented Filipinos had been granted special leave by their employers to attend the Pope's funeral.

But some of those at the Thursday Mass said they were holding multiple jobs a day with different employers, and were granted leave only by the "more understanding" ones.

Elsa, who arrived in Rome only last year and is now "working" for her "legalization," said her employer grudgingly gave her leave after she said that "we Italians and Filipinos are Catholics, so we should pray for the Pope."

1,659 of 5,249 pass bar; UP girl is tops

From page A1

A full half hour later, Khan formally announced that the bar topper was January A. Sanchez, a UP graduate and mother of a 4-year-old boy. Sanchez scored 87.45 percent in the 2004 bar examinations.

The state university took five of the top 10 places, San Beda College, three, and the Ateneo University and the University of San Carlos, one each.

After Sanchez, the top 10 bar examinees were: Ronald de Vera, also from UP, who got 86.95 percent; Carlito Martin R. Mendoza, San Beda, 86.75; Ma. Cristina C. Larrobin, University of San Carlos, 86.3; Efrén Vincent M. Dizon, San Beda, 86.1; Michael Geronimo G. Martin,

Ateneo de Manila University, 86.05; Maria Melissa G. Tan, San Beda, 85.55 percent; Joseph Joemer C. Perez, UP, 85.45; Neil Simon S. Silva, UP, 85.4 percent; and Ma. Melissa Jamero, UP, 85.3 percent.

75 law schools

A total of 1,659, or 31.61 percent, of the 5,249 examinees from 75 law schools from all over the country passed the grueling examinations held in the four Sundays of September 2004 at Manila's De La Salle University.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, who was appointed to the high court on Jan. 15, 1998, chaired the 2004 bar exams.

Lawyer Ricardo P. C. Castro,

the examiner for taxation, commented of this year's batch of examinees: "The common complaint is that the bar examinees are not able to express themselves in English very well, which resulted in their getting low grades. That is only partially true. Many of the examinees are articulate, but they are simply careless and miss important details in the problems."

"They leave questions unanswered or skip them. Concluding statements often contradict with the facts or laws cited. One gets the feeling that the majority do not strive for excellence anymore," he said.

Sanchez, who had waited out the announcement of the results in a shopping mall near the SC office, had rushed to a church as

soon as she heard the news, reporters eager to interview her were told.

A UP classmate described Sanchez, who comes from Bulacan, as a "very hardworking" mother of one.

"She's No. 3 in our class," said classmate Ralynn Malig.

Malig said friends had urged Sanchez to go to the mall because she was "a bit nervous."

Second-placer De Vera took the bar with his 65-year-old father Rustico, a certified public accountant.

Unfortunately, the elder De Vera, who took his law degree at the Adamson and Arellano universities, did not make it.

"Yes, I'm from UP, the best law school in town!" shouted the young De Vera, punching a

John Paul on fast track to sainthood

VATICAN CITY—Posters and T-shirts are already declaring it, pilgrims are pushing it, and even cardinals are backing the swelling popular campaign to declare Pope John Paul II a saint.

The Vatican must verify two miracles for John Paul to be canonized, and even then the process can take centuries. But with millions of people paying homage to John Paul, the start of the saint-making machine seems almost inevitable.

The Rev. Peter Gumpel, who is spearheading the cause for sainthood for another pope, Pius XII, said Thursday he thought John Paul was certainly worthy and that it was likely his case would get fast-tracked, like that of Mother Teresa.

"I think there will be a top priority given to this cause," Gumpel said in an interview. "It is well possible, with a view to the importance and the great admiration of the present pope, that procedures will be sped up."

Changed rules

It was John Paul himself who changed the rules and allowed the Vatican to begin the saint-making process for Mother Teresa just one year after she died, instead of the usual five. Mother Teresa died in 1997 and John Paul beatified her in 2003, the last step to possible sainthood.

Gumpel said such fast-track procedures could be applied to the late Pope, but he ruled out speculation that John Paul's successor might immediately proceed to canonizing him without first taking the necessary steps to beatify him.

"I think this is downright absurd, and this is not likely to happen," Gumpel said.

Bypassing the time-honored process of researching a candidate's life, having it judged by cardinals, bishops and theologians, and then verifying a miracle "would not do full justice to the man," he said.

Nevertheless, there's a movement in the streets to do just that for the man who created more saints than all his predecessors in the past 500 years combined.

Vendors around Rome are selling T-shirts proclaiming "Saint Karol." A giant poster reading "Grazie Padre Santo," or "Thank You Saint Father" was plastered

on Via della Conciliazione, the main boulevard leading to St. Peter's Square.

And Italian newspapers are already reporting supposed miraculous events attributed to John Paul's intercession—even though he has only been dead for a week and to be valid, the miracle must occur after death.

"The church will decide in time," Vittorio Messori, a leading Catholic author who helped the Pope write the 1994 best-selling book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," wrote in the Corriere della Sera newspaper this week.

"But many have already anticipated the judgment; and the reasons for doing so are not lacking."

He noted that the "cult of saintliness" has already been seen in Poland, where mourners had hoped that John Paul's heart could be displayed for veneration—a sure sign that there is the popular will necessary to push through a saintly cause, he wrote.

"He moved the Berlin Wall. He won over communism. He united not just Poles but the entire Christian world through his words, and this is a miracle," said Ewa Cywinska, 20, a student who was praying Thursday at Saint Ann's church in Warsaw.

"I am certain he will be beatified," Cywinska said.

As far as the Vatican is concerned, Cardinal Angelo Sodano appeared to have jump-started the process Sunday when he called the Pope in his written homily "John Paul the Great." The title is usually designated for popes worthy of sainthood, such as Gregory the Great and Leo the Great.

While Sodano didn't use the title when he delivered his homily, Vatican texts are considered official, even if they are not pronounced. Indeed, the official Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano picked up on it in its following editions, calling the late Pope "John Paul II, the Great."

Archbishop Edward Nowak, secretary of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, called John Paul an "extraordinary example" of saints among us during a panel discussion on RAI state television this week that seemed more like an infomercial for John Paul's sainthood than regular programming.

"The saintliness of the Pope is in how he led his life, his faith and compassion, day after day," Nowak said.

Chicago Cardinal Francis George said he hadn't heard talk among his fellow cardinals about a fast-track to sainthood for John Paul. But, he said, "That wouldn't surprise me at all," if the process were sped up.

"I think there would be a lot of support for it," George said.

Polish Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski was more resolute: "Definitely," he told the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita when asked if John Paul would be canonized.

If the five-year waiting rule is bypassed, Gumpel said, the Vatican could proceed directly to the beatification procedures: collecting all John Paul's private writings and his published works before he became pope and submitting them to theological experts to determine whether he had written anything heretical. AP

Some Europeans question deluge of papal praise

PARIS—As the world prepares for the funeral of Pope John Paul II Friday, some Europeans have questioned the deluge of ecstatic praise for the Pontiff as well as the participation of scores of heads of state.

After allowing the outpouring of emotion for the Pope, who headed the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, some elected officials on the left in France and in Spain have begun raising concerns about acts of official mourning by their secular states.

In France, where politicians are always sensitive to the separation of church and state, the Greens on the Paris municipal council found it "completely inappropriate" to lower the French flag at public buildings, even calling it an "abuse of power" by the French president.

The anti-AIDS group Act Up remembered the Pope with his ultra-conservative sexual views as an "accomplice of the epidemic" and called for the homage to the Pontiff to be "in proportion to the 10,000 people who die daily of AIDS."

In Spain, where a day of national mourning was observed Monday, six Socialist or Com-

munist lawmakers refused to stand up Tuesday during a minute of silence observed by the Spanish parliament in memory of the deceased Pope.

The media also came under fire for its extensive coverage. The French satiric weekly Le Canard Enchaîné ran the headline: "Overdose of religiosity: Where is the separation of church and the media?"

The Bulgarian press too derided the media for its obsession with the Pope's last days and his death.

"Turning the death of a spiritual leader into a political and television show is an abomination," wrote Duma columnist Alexander Perpeliev. He added that it was especially excessive for an Orthodox country like Bulgaria.

In Russia, another country of the Orthodox church, Alexei Mitrofanov, vice president of the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), accused the Russian media Thursday of participating in "Catholic propaganda." The day before, 98 lawmakers voted for a resolution to limit coverage of events related to the deceased Pontiff. AFP

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Longtime tailor displays skullcap Pope didn't wear

ROME—The tailoring shop that served Pope John Paul II for 26 years paid a poignant tribute to the late Pontiff Thursday, displaying in its window a white silk skullcap that John Paul never had the chance to wear.

Resting on a cloth of red silk, the "zucchetto," or skullcap, was the only item on display at the tiny, old-fashioned Ditta A. Gammarelli shop in downtown Rome nestled in the shadow of the Pantheon.

"We thought, as a mourning tribute to the Pope, to do a very minimalist window and put no other items on display rather than the papal symbol: the white skullcap," Filippo Gammarelli, one of three people who is running the family business, said Thursday.

Outside the shop, the Vatican's yellow-and-white flag was flying at half-staff in another sign of mourning for the Pope, who died Saturday at age 84 and was to be laid to rest Friday in a solemn ceremony in St. Peter's Square.

Meanwhile, the shop was busy preparing clothes for the next pope, with three sets of outfits—small, medium and large—to be shipped to the Vatican.

Work on the outfits for the new pope started Wednesday and is expected to be finished by April 18, the beginning of the conclave. Three to four tailors were working around the clock to finish the outfits, which are all handmade.

Each set includes a white woolen cassock, a moire silk white cassock, a red silk

"mozzetta," or waist-length robe, a moire silk sash, a skullcap and a pair of red leather shoes.

The chosen outfitter for the church elite, Gammarelli has served scores of cardinals and popes since 1798, including all but one of John Paul's predecessors in the past century. The exception—Pius XII—used his family tailor.

Inside the wood-paneled shop, pictures of the last six pontiffs hang from the wall, black and red cloths are shelved behind the counter—and priests come and go, as the store is a bit of a tourist attraction for clergymen passing through Rome.

The shop is away from the Vatican area, where millions of pilgrims lined up this week to pay homage to the beloved Pontiff.

John Paul has been Gammarelli's client since he was elected in 1978.

"John Paul II was not our client when he was cardinal," Gammarelli said, "but once he was made Pope, he became our client—luckily."

"John Paul II was very easy to please," he recalled.

"The thing he preferred was to always have very light outfits," he said. "Perhaps because he was Polish, and therefore he was used to a cold climate."

Gammarelli would not say whether the Pope would be laid to rest Friday in the shop's clothes. **AP**

Lucky pilgrims cross paths with those who didn't make it

VATICAN CITY—The last of millions of mourners who filed past Pope John Paul's body emerged ecstatic from St. Peter's Basilica on Thursday, crossing paths with distraught frustrated pilgrims who arrived too late.

Devout Catholics from around the world raced against time to make it to the Vatican in time to see John Paul lying in state.

"We prayed the Rosary all the way here so that we could get in, and our prayers were answered," said Stephanie Reissfelder, 23, who travelled 15 hours by bus from Heidelberg in Germany.

Franck Lesage, whose bus journey from northern France lasted about as long, was not so lucky. He pleaded with stony-faced policemen in a mixture of French, Italian and English before finally admitting defeat.

"I can't believe it. This is hurting me, this is really hurting me," he said, wringing his hands.

The last pilgrims to exit the basilica had to weave their way out

through a vast, improvised campsite as thousands of people bedded down on the streets, staking out good positions for Friday's funeral.

Packed like sardines in a tin, bodies lay as far as the eye could see, wrapped in blankets and sleeping bags, some covered in national flags. Some people dozed while others prayed, played guitars, sang religious songs or munched on sandwiches.

Several groups had constructed low barriers out of packs of mineral water to stop people from walking on them.

A group of boisterous Argentine priests belted out a famous eastern European tune in honor of a passing group of Poles, before switching to "Cielito Lindo" when they spotted a Mexican flag go by.

The flag was being paraded by housewife Rebeca Cruz, who had flown in from Guadalajara in Mexico and viewed the Pope on Tuesday after waiting in line for 12 hours. She was beaming after a priest with a special pass took her in a second

time, without having to wait.

"It was a great blessing from heaven. It was the Virgin Mary that gave me this beautiful gift," she said.

Her buoyant mood was in stark contrast to the disappointment felt by Cecilia Khoo, 40, who flew from Singapore for a chance to lay eyes on the Pontiff. She arrived just as police were cordoning off all streets leading to St. Peter's.

"I feel very, very sad. I have come so far to pay my last respects to the Pope, but I have been stopped when I am so close," she said, tears welling up in her eyes.

Szymon Mosiolek, a 20-year-old student wrapped in a Polish flag, was also rebuffed after enduring a 24-hour train journey from Krakow, the city where Karol Wojtyla was archbishop before he became Pope John Paul II.

But Mosiolek was putting a brave face on it. "I wanted to come no matter what. We Poles want to show the whole world how much we love the Pope," he said. **Reuters**

Filipinos bid John Paul II triumphant farewell

From page A1

White, blue and yellow balloons floated above the sea of faithful. Many were dressed in World Youth Day T-shirts; others carried streamers with the words "John Paul II, we love you"—the chant of 10 years ago.

Displayed at the grandstand was the majestic seat painted gold, which the Pope used in 1995.

Leaders of other faiths

As in the Vatican, the prayer rally drew leaders of various faiths.

Father Kleofas, who represents the 1,000 members of the local Orthodox Church, described the Pope as the "herald of the unity of mankind."

"We grieve but we're also happy that he's now in the bosom of our Lord," he told reporters.

Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, lauded the Pontiff for his efforts, such as the building of a mosque just outside the Vatican in the 1980s.

"He promoted interfaith dialogue and worked to bridge the gap among different faiths," the Muslim leader told the INQUIRER.

Iniguez said that with everything that John Paul had done for humanity, the next pope "really has to tread his path."

Bacani said Filipinos should take John Paul's death as an opportunity to nurture their faith.

"The lesson is for us not to fill ourselves with material things but to give ourselves to others," he said.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza took the occasion to rally the people against efforts to popularize artificial family planning.

The mayor led about 10,000 delegates, including city employees, barangay officials, students and business leaders, to the prayer rally.

He urged the people to follow the Pope's appeal for the propagation of a culture of life, saying that the Pope stood strongly against abortion and the destruction of moral values.

Popemobile

A photograph of the Pope served as a backdrop for the stage and the altar, while large video screens showed the burial ceremonies in the Vatican.

Carrying streamers and some 200 photographs of the Pope, the Manila delegates prayed the rosary as they accompanied the popemobile in a candlelight procession from the Manila City Hall to the Quirino Grandstand.

The custom-built, bulletproof vehicle used by the Pontiff during his 1995 visit was adorned with flowers

for the procession.

Hours earlier, the popemobile became an instant "pilgrimage site" for city hall employees who posed for pictures beside the vehicle and rubbed their rosaries and scapulars on it to be "blessed."

They also carried white balloons and roses, which they offered during the Mass.

"This is our humble way of paying tribute to a well-loved and well-respected leader of the Catholic Church with whom Filipinos, Manilans in particular, shared a memorable Christian experience that will long be remembered," Atienza said.

Around the country

Farewell ceremonies were also held in other parts of the country.

Across the Visayas—from the big cities of Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo to small towns in Leyte, Samar, Bohol and Siquijor—thousands of Catholics attended requiem Masses timed with the Pope's funeral.

At the Roxas City Metropolitan Cathedral, the faithful led by Capiz Archbishop Onesimo Gordocillo witnessed the funeral rites on a wide-screen TV.

In Bacolod City, at least 5,000 people attended a procession led by Bishop Vicente Navarra before proceeding to the San Sebastian Cathe-

dral for a Mass that Navarra concelebrated with about 100 priests.

They walked behind a cart that carried a picture of the Pope adorned with flowers and the message: "We thank you and we love you, good and faithful servant of the Lord."

Earlier at the residence of Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, a Mass was concelebrated by over 30 priests and attended by over 300 people.

Msgr. Achilles Dakay, spokesperson of Vidal, said the Mass was held on the latter's instruction.

Vidal is in Rome to attend the Pope's funeral and participate in the election of his successor.

Man of peace

In Davao Oriental, the Pinatikan, a group of Catholic Mandaya natives who had declared independence from Rome, celebrated a special Mass in chapels all over the province.

Pinatikan has members in the towns of Mati, Caraga, Baganga, Manay, Tarragona, Cateel, Boston and Lupon, according to its leader Porferio Mangaliwan.

"We continue to hold deep respect for Pope John Paul II. He is the true unifier of the world, a true man of peace," Mangaliwan said.

According to Mangaliwan, the

Pinatikan members are Catholics who are "independent from Rome, just like the Philippine Independent Church."

"We severed our ties with Rome starting in the 1980s because we do not want our resources to go out of the country," he said.

Pinatikan members are recognizable for the cross tattoos on their bodies, Mangaliwan said.

"We had our own religious beliefs way before the Spanish colonizers came," he said. "Our generation is still adopting the practice of tattooing even if many Mandaya have embraced Catholicism," he said.

Members of the Pinatikan worship at Masses celebrated by their leaders, and pray the rosary.

Replica on display

In Malolos City, hundreds of devotees assembled Thursday night at the basilica minore for a special requiem Mass for the Pope. A replica of his body was displayed there hours before the Mass was held.

In Tuguegarao City, a concelebrated Mass by 20 priests from five vicariates in Cagayan will be offered for the Pope on Sunday at the St. Peter's Cathedral.

It was John Paul who elevated the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Piat in Piat town into a basilica minore.

In Baguio, the Pope's image graced an exhibit launching the city's feminist artists on Thursday, the eve of his funeral.

Sanctuary Gallery, which is run by Catholic nuns advocating the protection of the environment, displayed a framed sketch of the then Karol Wojtyla by artist Rosalinda Ramirez.

"I was inspired to draw him [as soon as I heard] about his death," she said.

Most of the featured paintings were focused on the theme "Rebirthing the Woman," making the Pope's portrait stand out because of his conservative stand on the idea of women priests, one of the artists said.

In Malolos City, Bishop Jose Oliveros led a special Mass in which more than 200 priests took part.

Love one another

Oliveros reminded the people in his homily to love one another—the message spread by John Paul during his papacy. **With reports from**

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Vincent Cabreja and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, Jhun-nex Napallacan, Joey Gabieta, Jolene Bulambot and Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau; Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 funerals and a wedding keep royals very busy

From page A1

wedding in Windsor on Saturday, and the funeral of Monaco's Prince Rainier III the following Friday.

In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office made it clear that if he had to choose between the Pope's funeral and Charles' wedding, originally slated for Friday, he'd join mourners in Rome.

In the end, he didn't have to decide, as Charles postponed his nuptials for a day so he could be at the 'papal service, too.

So far French President Jacques Chirac has been the only dignitary to announce attendance at the funerals on successive Fridays. But there's little doubt others among the continent's political and aristocratic elite would be paying their respects both to the Pontiff and the monarch, although it appeared unlikely anyone would attend all three events.

Funeral overshadowed all

Of the trio of ceremonies, the Pope's funeral was so far commanding the most respect.

"Who would have thought the death of Rome's Supreme Pontiff would interfere with the marriage plans of the next Supreme Governor of the Church of England?" a commentator in Britain's Guardian newspaper wondered after Charles—who will be the titular head of the Anglican Church when he becomes king—changed his wedding plans.

US President

George W. Bush, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and former Polish President Lech Walesa were among the mourners in Rome, along with kings, queens and world religious leaders.

The guest list for Rainier's funeral has yet to be announced.

The timing of the Pope's funeral put Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles in a tough spot.

Royalty in tough spot

But after waiting patiently for years for Queen Elizabeth II and the British public to accept their relationship, the couple—who first fell in love in the early 1970s—decided they could wait another day.

Charles was at the papal funeral

along with Blair and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who will bless the union of the prince and Parker Bowles at a religious ceremony after their wedding.

The only other royal wedding guests known to have attended the funeral were Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Yugoslavia.

The foreign royals coming to Charles' celebration were generally lower on the aristocratic totem pole than those who were in Rome, many of whom were heads of state.

Among those on a guest list released by Charles' office were the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa; ex-King Constantine and ex-Queen Anne-Marie of

Greece; Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands and Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway.

Domino effect

For Charles' wedding, the domino effect of changing plans went as far as one of Britain's biggest horse races. Organizers of the Grand National said the race would begin 25 minutes later than scheduled Saturday so television coverage did not conflict with the royal wedding.

Charles might have been tapped to represent Britain at Rainier's funeral, but that coincides with his honeymoon. Buckingham Palace announced Thursday that Prince

Andrew, the queen's second son, would attend the rites in Monaco.

King Juan Carlos of Spain was at the papal farewell and was a close friend of Rainier's, but has not said whether he'll attend the Monaco memorial.

The coincidence of the two deaths happening within a few days of one another has had some unexpected ripple effects.

The pontiff or the Vatican's secretary of state normally sends official Church condolence letters, but with the Pope's job freshly vacant when Rainier died, that duty fell to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, dean of the College of Cardinals.

He told Prince Albert he was praying for the late monarch and

for all those touched by him.

Just a few days earlier, with his father ailing, Albert had sent a condolence message to the Vatican. **AP**

Monks . . .

From page A1

the monks of the contemplative Cistercian order, which follows a strict routine of prayer and work throughout the day and observes vows of silence every evening.

They already own a television set, but have not used it for some time and need the satellite dish because reception is poor. **Reuters**

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Plane held in Rome; no bomb found

ROME—An Italian Air Force fighter forced an executive jet with a suspected bomb on board to land on Friday near Rome, where world leaders had gathered for the funeral of Pope John Paul II, an Air Force official said. But the official said no bomb had been discovered.

A military source said the plane was heading to Rome from the Balkans and was forced to land at a military air base outside the Italian capital at 3:16 p.m. (9:16 p.m., Manila time).

The Italian news agency ANSA earlier quoted Italy's Air Force chief Gen. Leonardo Tricario as saying intelligence reports indicated that a bomb was on board the aircraft as it headed toward Rome's second airport Ciampino.

The plane, a business jet-type Learjet, was intercepted and forced to land at Pratica di Mare air base, south of the Italian capital, where it was searched.

Unlike Rome's main Fiumicino airport, Ciampino has been closed to commercial traffic amid a security clampdown in and around Rome for world leaders attending the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

A no-flight zone covering a radius of about 120 km around Rome up to a height of about 6,500 meters has been imposed for the Pope's funeral and will be effective until Saturday afternoon.

Reuters, AFP

Mexicans mourn empty popemobile

MEXICO CITY—Thousands of devout Catholics lined the streets of Mexico's capital on Thursday night to watch a popemobile drive by in a final tribute to Pope John Paul II just hours before his funeral.

The Pope visited Mexico five times in his 26-year reign and helped end decades of antagonism between the church and an anti-clerical state in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation.

Crowds of people threw flowers at the white popemobile once used by the Pontiff as it made its way toward the Basilica de Guadalupe, Mexico's holiest shrine, where tens of thousands more gathered for a special tribute and to watch a broadcast on giant screens of the funeral rites in St. Peter's Square.

Only the driver and a former bodyguard of the Pope were inside the popemobile. Left behind from a papal visit, this white vehicle is longer than the classic glass popemobile usually used to ferry the Pope on official visits.

Reuters



JAPANESE Catholics weep as they offer flowers at a memorial service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Tokyo on Friday. (Right) One of the devotees is overcome by her feelings.



REUTERS

PHILIPPINES

TRIBUTES AND TEARS 'ROUND THE WORLD



A REUNION of World Youth Day participants in 1995 is held at the UST football field on Thursday. They sing the theme song, "Tell the World of His Love" and remember how the Holy Father presided over World Youth Day.

CHINA



TO MARK the Pope's funeral, a devotee prays at a government-approved Catholic Church in Beijing. The Chinese are permitted to worship only in government-approved churches which do not recognize papal authority.

AP

COSTA RICA



MORE prayers from the faithful during a funeral Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Thursday.

AP

INDIA



NUNS from the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order Blessed Mother Teresa founded, hold prayer sessions in Calcutta.

REUTERS

MEXICO



MEXICO: Thousands march through the streets of Mexico City on Thursday. They also line the streets, and so does this little girl, to watch the popemobile drive by, which had been used by John Paul II during his trips to Mexico.

REUTERS

POLAND



IN POPE's own homeland, his countrymen cannot seem to do enough to pay him tribute as they do again on Thursday.

AP

Cardinal in US sex scandal takes limelight in Rome

ROME—Cardinal Bernard Law, who was forced to resign in disgrace as archbishop of Boston two years ago for protecting sexually abusive priests, was named by the Vatican on Thursday as one of nine prelates who will have the honor of presiding over funeral Masses for Pope John Paul II.

To many American Catholics, Law is best known as the archbishop who presided over the Boston archdiocese as it became

the focus for the sexual abuse scandal involving priests.

But to Vatican officials, Law is a powerful kingmaker who traveled internationally for the church and whose favorite priests were regularly appointed bishops by John Paul. After he stepped down in Boston in 2003, he was given a spacious apartment and a prestigious although honorary post in Rome as archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

It is by virtue of this position that he was given the high-profile role of celebrating Monday's funeral ritual, the third in the nine-day mourning period that follows a pope's death. It is expected that most of the cardinals will attend the Mass, which will be open to the public. Law will deliver a homily that many Vatican watchers will parse for clues about the cardinals' thinking on who should be the next pope.

By permitting Law to take the

limelight in Rome just when the church is mourning the death of John Paul, the cardinals have reminded American Catholics that their most painful recent chapter barely registered in the Vatican.

"It's yet another example of the gap between how the Vatican sees things and how the US church sees things," said the Rev. Keith F. Peckers, an American Jesuit who is a professor at the Gregorian, a pontifical university in Rome. "This

kind of thing can open the wounds for people just when the healing was beginning."

Law resigned after a judge decided to unseal court records that included a letter from the cardinal commending priests even though he knew they had been accused at one time of abusing children.

In Boston, Bernie McDaid, one of as many as 50 people who have accused the Rev. Joseph Birmingham of sexual abuse, said that he

and others among them were "infuriated" to learn on Thursday of Law's prominence in the papal funeral and transition.

"He never lost power, even though he stepped down from Boston," McDaid said. "In any other corporation, if you lost your rank and left you'd lose your power and you'd be stripped of your title." But, "here he is in Rome, still as powerful as he was before." New York Times News Service

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River care pact signed in Marikina

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MORE, the merrier—and the better for the environment.

In an agreement signed yesterday, eight local government units from different parts of the country vowed to protect their respective river systems through strong partnerships.

"The agreement formalizes exchanges of ideas, experiences and expertise in river management among the participating towns and cities," Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando said.

Joining Marikina City in the agreement dubbed "Ilognayan" are the local governments of Pagsanjan, Laguna; Munoz City, Nueva Ecija; San Mateo and Rodriguez in Rizal; Loboc, Bohol; Davao City, and Pasig City.

The agreement is a welcome development for local governments, considering that caring for the environment cannot be carried out in isolated projects.

Water in the Marikina River, for instance, comes from rivers in San Mateo and Montalban before it flows to the Pasig River.

"If one local government will not take care of its river, the entire river system will be affected," said Cultural Center of the Philippines' Fernando Josef, also Marikina City consultant for the "Ilognayan" project.

Under the agreement signed at the Marikina City Hotel yesterday, member cities and towns shall allocate funds for river rehabilitation projects, and set up their respective task forces for the regular cleanup and monitoring of their rivers.

Information and technology

for taking care of the rivers would also be exchanged among the members.

Fernando, Munoz City Mayor Nestor Alvarez and Pagsanjan Mayor Emilio Ramon Ejercito III personally signed the agreement yesterday, along with representatives of the other members.

The Marikina City government organized "Ilognayan" as part of its 375th anniversary celebration.

"From hereon, hosting of the yearly 'Ilognayan' will move from one town or city to another," Fernando said, adding that they were looking forward to having more member cities and towns next year.

Marikina also launched "Ilognayan" as an annual festival yesterday.

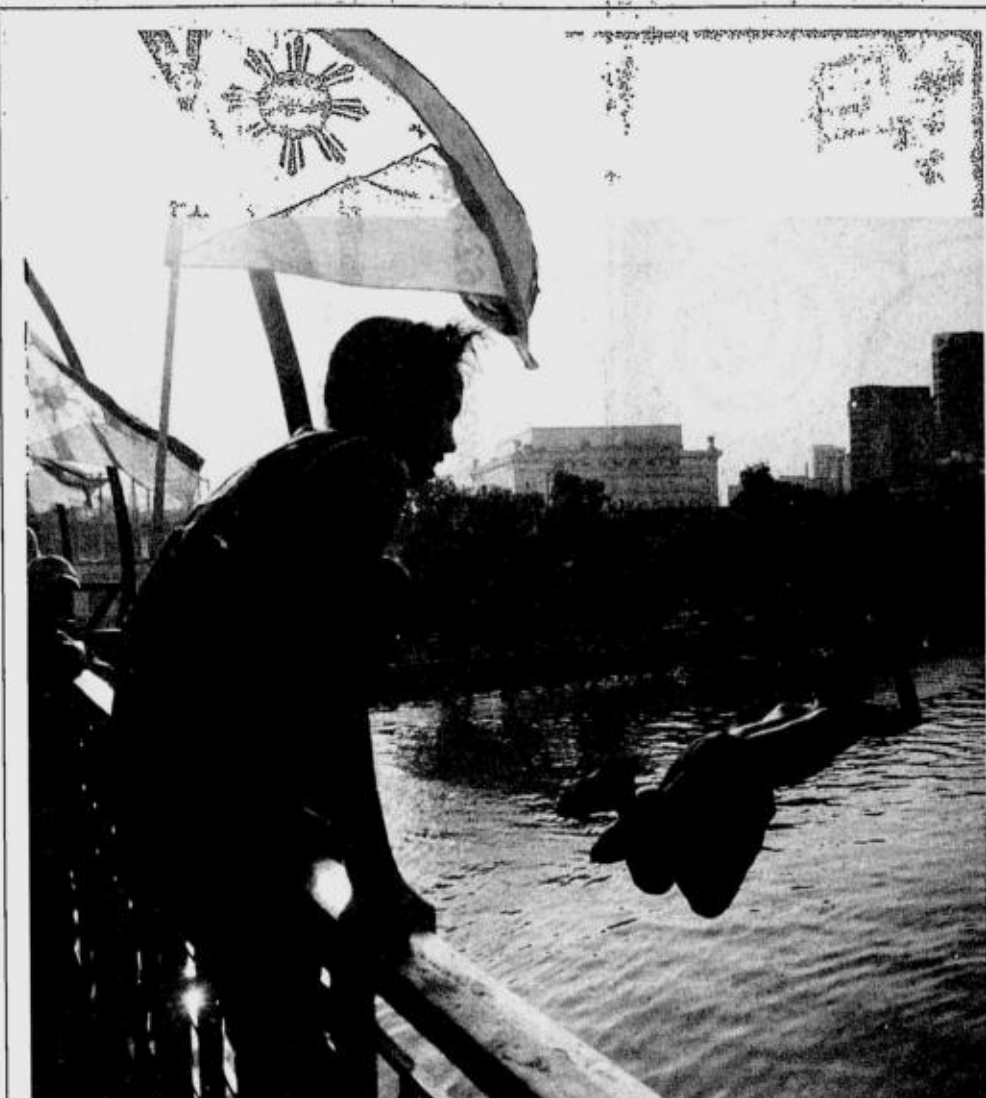
This year, the festival started on April 2 and will end on April 16, with most of the trade, sports, arts and environment activities scheduled at the Marikina River Park.

The festival has focused on four programs: trade fairs, sports competitions, arts, and the environment.

City tourism head Lea Santiago said they hoped their sister cities and towns could also hold their own "Ilognayan" simultaneously with Marikina City to make the festival a national activity.

"Ilognayan" is our contribution to improving the condition of our rivers not just in Marikina but all over the country as well," she added.

Ejercito, on the other hand, said they had their own "Bangkero" (boatman) Festival, an annual activity launched seven years ago.



SUMMER BREAK

Quiapo Bridge is a favorite diving point for teenage boys out for a swim in the Pasig River.

REM ZAMORA

MMDA bats for shorter mall hours

By Tarra V. Quismundo

APART from conserving energy, it would also help ease traffic.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) made this assessment of the proposal requiring malls and shopping centers to close shop at least once a week, a measure that Malacañang resorted to for energy conservation.

"That would be good for traffic. If it's also possible, maybe malls and shopping centers could close down for two or three days," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director.

Vergel de Dios explained that portions of roads fronting supermarkets, malls and shopping centers have consistently been among the most traffic-choked parts of major thoroughfares, particularly along Edsa.

"These places hold the biggest concentration of commuters and buses. And there are also private vehicles that take the roads leading to malls and shopping centers," the traffic chief explained.

Vergel de Dios said the north-bound portions of Edsa in front of SM Megamall, Farmer's Plaza and SM North Edsa have stood out in terms of traffic volume and commuter traffic. Going south, portions fronting Ayala Center in Makati and Starmall on Shaw Boulevard are the critical points, he added.

Tondo tutor recalls finding her way to Pope John Paul II

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE FAITH she found halfway through her life would be her remembrance from a beloved Pope.

Fifty-nine year-old Ruth Alonsagay was welcomed into the Catholic faith 25 years ago by Pope John Paul II himself in a special christening ceremony at the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

"I felt like I was face to face with Jesus Christ. The hairs on my arms stood on end. I was trembling and broke down in tears," said Alonsagay, recounting the moment the Pope anointed her as a Catholic on April 5, 1980.

She was among 24 converts from 12 countries that the Pope welcomed into the borderless Catholic congregation, almost two years into what would be his 26-year pontificate.

Born into a family of Aglipayans (members of the Philippine Independent Church), Alonsagay was encouraged to become a Roman Catholic by a friend and fellow teacher who taught religion at the Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila. Alonsagay has been teaching in the school for more than 30 years



ALONSAGAY (middle) meets a "pure and serene" Holy Father at the Vatican.

now. "I confided to her that whenever I went to church, it was like nothing special. I decided to be converted because my husband and I also wanted to be married in church," related Alonsagay. She and Osias Mel had a

civil wedding and, by that time, were married for 10 years.

Her decision could not have come at a better time. Then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had just received a letter from the Vatican requesting the country to

send two adult Catholic converts for a baptismal that would cap the church's observance of Holy Week.

Through Arsenia Chua, the co-teacher who convinced her to convert to Catholicism, Alonsagay and Caviteño Lito Dollaga

were selected as the Philippine representatives. The church paid for their flight to the Vatican City before Holy Week began.

At St. Peter's Basilica, Alonsagay, in a white dress, received the pontiff's blessing.

"The Pope... blessed me with holy water, then I kissed his hand. I couldn't help but cry at his presence while the rest were very happy and smiling. He looked so pure and serene," said Alonsagay.

"He asked me where I was from. When I said I was from the Philippines, he told me, 'I love the Philippines. I'll be going there.' I'll never forget that moment," said Alonsagay.

A year later, Pope John Paul II made his first visit to the country. He would make another visit 14 years later for the 1995 celebration of World Youth Day.

Alonsagay and her husband were married in a Catholic Church in 1981. When the Pope was laid to rest yesterday, Alonsagay, now a devout Catholic and a member of the Catholic Women's League, offered prayers and lit a candle, joining the world in mourning the passing of the 84-year-old John Paul II.

METROBRIEFS

Mugger convicted

VICTORIO Mallari, one of two men who allegedly mugged Belgian parliamentarian Georges Brion, was found guilty of robbery, and sentenced to a minimum of four years and two months to eight years and 20 days in jail. Mallari was also required to pay Brion P4,000 and the peso equivalent of 50 euros by Judge Pedro Corales of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court, Branch 118. Despite publicly confessing to the crime, Mallari said he was not guilty. The tricycle driver was arrested Wednesday morning, a day after he and an alleged accomplice, known only as Jess, picked up Brion and robbed him of P4,000 in cash and \$60. His accomplice remains at large. The Belgian official was a delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly held at the Philippine International Convention Center. About 1,500 foreign lawmakers attended the six-day IPU conference which ended yesterday. A special law requires the trial against Mallari to be held within 24 hours because it involves a foreigner. State prosecutor Clarisa V. Kuong said the special law applies to foreign residents and transients.

Fran Katigbak

Shopwise raffle

FRESH Off the Rack, Shopwise's on-going festival of products is holding a raffle promo until April 19 to dazzle countless shoppers and make their summer even more splendid. The raffle is open to all Shopwise patrons, 18 years old and above. To participate, the shopper must purchase any item from the Fresh or Fashion sections during the Fresh Off the Rack promo activity and present their receipt to the booth personnel at the Shopwise branch where the purchase was made for validation. The raffle draw, which will take place simultaneously in all branches on April 20 at 4 p.m. will have five winners per branch. Deadline for submission of entries is at 11 p.m. April 19.

Beware of cheap cement, DTI warns consumers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday warned the public against adulterated cement products, following the seizure recently of 241 bags with contents that had been passed off as pure cement.

The 40-kilogram bags, popularly referred to as "buriki" were seized from two retailers in Caloocan City. According to the DTI's Bureau of Product Standards, other materials had been added to the "buriki," making these substandard.

BPS Director Jesus L. Motoomull said samples taken from the confiscated cement bags did not reach even half of the minimum requirement under the standard three-day and seven-day compressive strength tests for cement.

"We are still waiting for the results of the tests to prove conclusively that the cement in these bags is substandard," Motoomull said.

He warned retailers against

buying cement from agents who do not have proof of business dealings with authorized cement dealers or retailers, to avoid buying adulterated cement.

"The integrity of cement determines the soundness of our homes, roads, bridges, buildings and other infrastructure," he said.

"It is very important to assure consumers and contractors of good quality cement," he added.

Cement is among the products that must pass the government's safety and performance tests. It must also bear Philippine Standard or Import Commodity Clearance marks before it could be sold to the public.

Motoomull advised buyers to examine cement bags well, as there are tell-tale signs that they could be tampered with.

"These bags are usually underweight, the labels are indistinct, and are sold at a lower price," he said.

QC pool reopens for hot days ahead

By DJ Yap

FOR ONLY P20, Quezon City residents can now escape the sweltering summer heat and dip into the cool waters of the Bernardo Park swimming pool in Cubao.

The 25-meter pool is open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 to 5 p.m.

Capili, an assistant of city parks and development administration head Zaldy dela Rosa, said everyone, even non-Que-

zon City residents, can use the pool. But they have to wear proper bathing attire to help ensure cleanliness in the area.

This month's reopening of the pool is part of the city's efforts to rehabilitate its parks system.

The city also boasts of the La Mesa Eco-Park in Lagro, the West Triangle Park, and the historic Pugad Lawin shrine.

No more diggings, please!

QUEZON City is putting its foot down on road diggings by water-supply companies, claiming that the activity resulted in unsightly pockmarks all over the city's road-improvement projects.

The city government has warned Manila Water and Maynilad, two concessionaires of the Metro Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, that it would no longer grant any exca-

vation permits on completed road repair or construction projects.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. complained that while the city government spends millions of pesos on road infrastructure development, contractors for water concessionaires continue to make excavations, leaving pockmarks that make roads impassable to motorists and pedestrians.

DJ Yap

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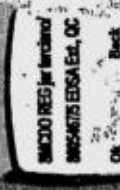
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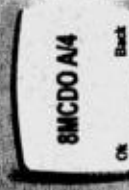
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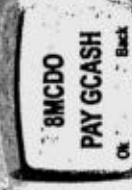
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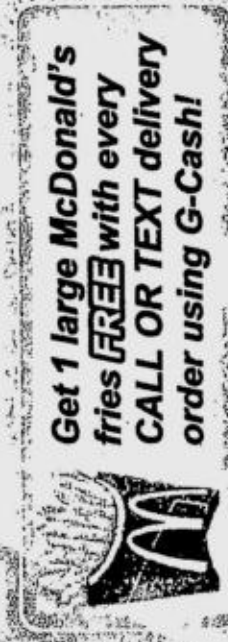


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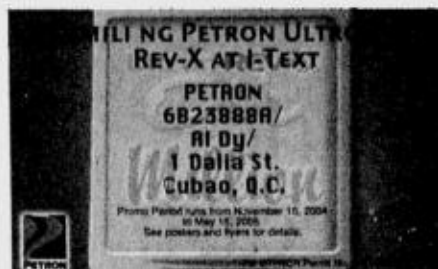
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WHAT'S INSIDE


■ Paint Masters eye 2nd win against Knights /A26

■ Forecast: 7-plus golden haul by tankers /A26

■ Indon race devil gets into the groove /A27

■ DiMarco leads wet and wild Masters /A28

■ Mariano, Gonzales beat Dubai foes /A31


Tigers' local aces overpower Barako

By June Navarro

WATCHING seven-foot giant Darrell Johns drift on the floor was similar to monitoring a slow-moving vehicle on a radar.

But it hardly mattered for the Coca-Cola Tigers as they again turned to their local crew to overwhelm Red Bull Barako, 98-86, last night in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We knew that he's (Johns) not yet in shape," said Coca-Cola coach Eric Altamirano, after the Tigers cruised to a second straight win, their third in seven games.

"But I believe that in time, Darrell could get his usual game going," Altamirano added of his import, who arrived Wednesday night from the United States.

Johns had a month-long stint in China and went home to the US three weeks ago before Toronto Raptors scout Jim Kelly recommended the former Chicago State College center to Altamirano.

"He's sluggish obviously be-

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)

4:15 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx

6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel Beer

cause of jetlag and admitted that he's not yet prepared to play competitive basketball after coming from China," said Altamirano.

Nevertheless, Johns, who replaced an injured Bakari Hendrix, finished with 20 points on an almost effortless 10 of 15 shooting on top of eight rebounds, a steal and a block in 34 minutes of play.

Hendrix will be out for at least a month after he tore a ligament on his right knee during the second quarter of the Tigers' defeat to the Shell Turbochargers two weeks ago.

The Tigers won against the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in runaway fashion five days ago despite being orphaned by the high-scoring Hendrix.

Ali Peek was almost unstoppable in the paint for the second consecutive game while Dale Singson and William Antonio scorched the hoops with flawless outside shooting in the second quarter that ripped the game wide open.

Singson had 13 points, including three three-pointers in the second frame while Antonio added a pair of triples as the Tigers built a 58-35 spread from a 25-20 count.

Peek tossed in 23 points while Singson and Antonio added 13 each for the Tigers, who prevented the Barako from getting a share of the lead with idle San Miguel Beer by dealing them a third loss in seven games.

"We knew Red Bull is the No. 1 in fast-breaks," said Altamirano. "We limited their fastbreak plays and outrebounded them."

The Tigers overpowered the Barako off the boards, 52-47, while issuing 26 assists as against the 18 of Red Bull, which played its third game in eight days.

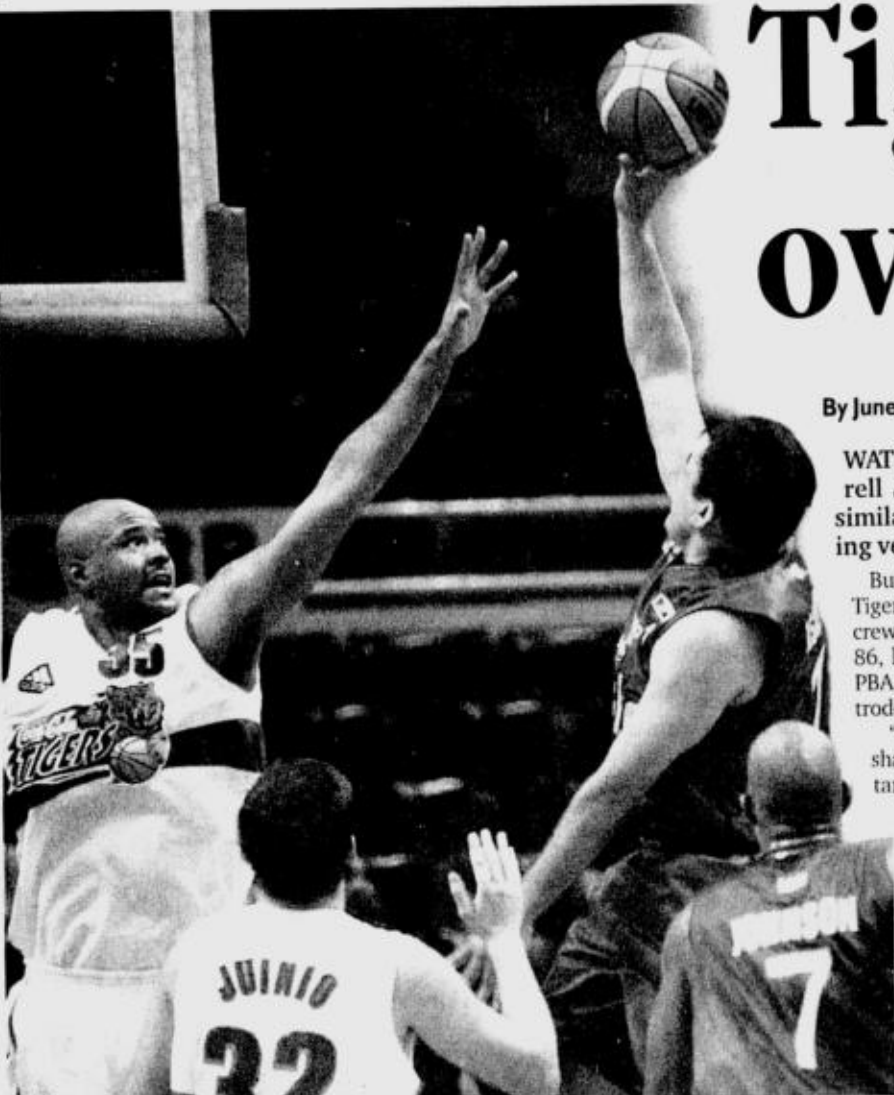
The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 98—Peek 23, Johns 20, Singson 13, Antonio 13, Reavis 9, Abarrientos 9, Arigo 5, Wainwright 4, Juinio 2, Bacani 0.

RED BULL 86—Johnson 22, Villaneuva 21, Bagulo 10, Torion 7, Asaytono 5, Ejercito 5, Tugade 5, Feihl 4, Ybanez 3, Robinson 2, Bernardo 2, Valenzuela 0, Meneses 0.

Quarters: 25-20, 58-35, 80-60, 98-86.



RED Bull's Nelson Asaytono shoots off Coca-Cola import Darrell Johns during a Barako uprising in the fourth quarter of the game last night.

RYAN LIM

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Fearless forecast: 7-plus golds by tankers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippines will win at least seven gold medals in aquatics in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

This was the modest projection of Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph, who said he expects three of the golds to come from swimming, three from diving and one from water polo.

Joseph is confident the country will top its three-gold harvest two years ago in the Vietnam SEAG through victories by Miguel Mendoza in the 1,500-meter freestyle, Miguel Molina in the 200m free and the 4x200 freestyle relay team of Mendoza, Molina, Carlo Piccio and Mark Kalaw.

"It is going to be a lot different now because we are competing in front of the hometown crowd," said Joseph who presided over the PASA's board meeting here coinciding with the national age-group competitions.

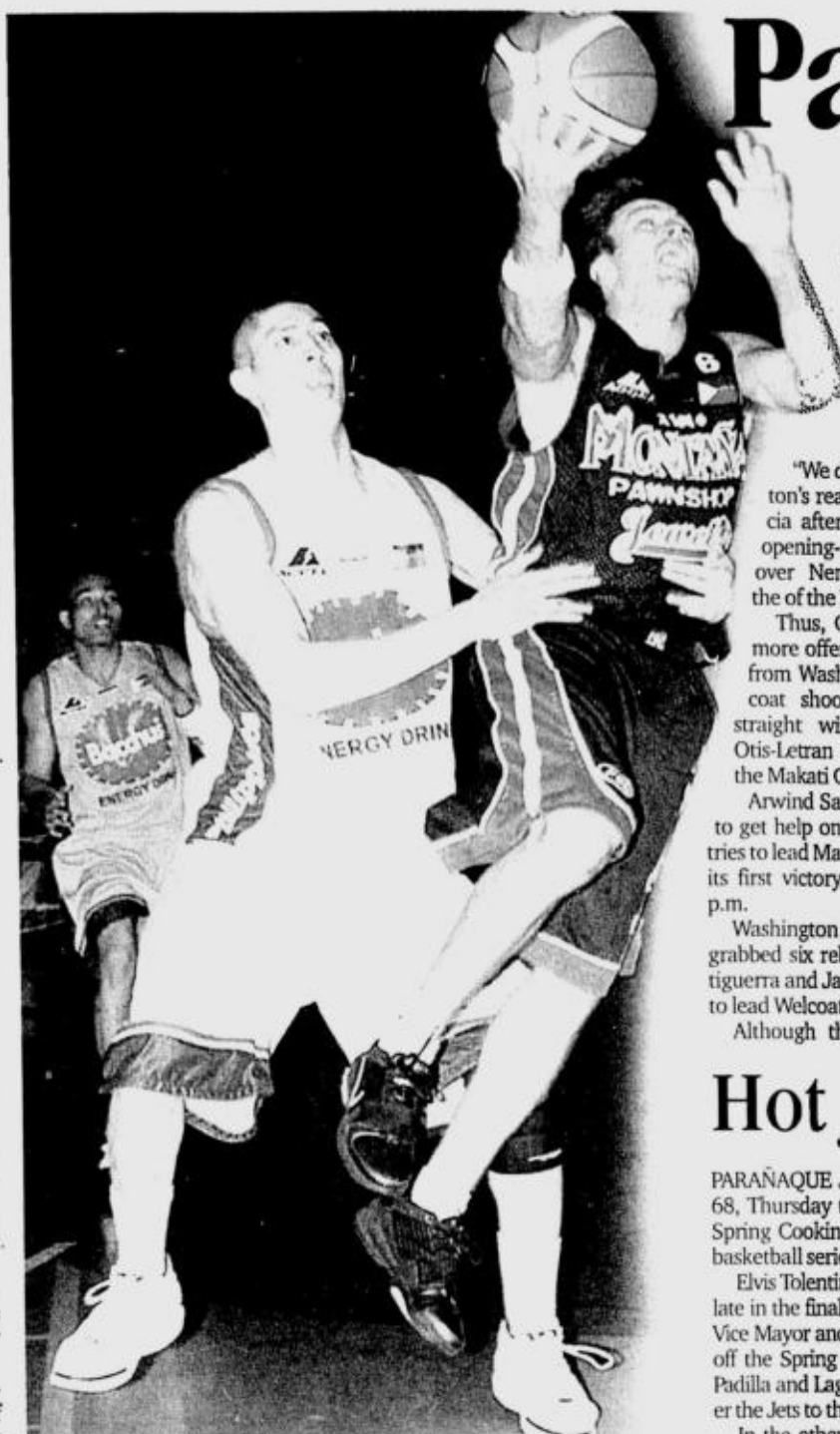
Still, Joseph's forecast didn't factor in the possibility of victories by Fil-Americans Jaclyn Pangilinan and JB Walsh in the competitions to be held at the world-class Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

Pangilinan broke RP records in 100m and 200m breaststroke during the Athens Olympics, while Walsh placed 34th in the 200m butterfly.

Joseph said two Filipino divers are currently ranked 5th and 8th in the world based on their performances in the World Grand Prix in Xuhai, China. The RP divers finished second only to the Chinese among Asian contenders.

Joseph said the national divers—who missed the Athens Games qualification competition due to poor paperwork—are young and dove for coins for a living in piers.

The national water polo team, which has never won gold in the SEA Games, just might pull off a surprise, according to Joseph based on their previous showing in international competitions.



MONTAÑA'S Alex Compton drives past a Bacchus defender. RYAN LIM

Paint Masters eye 2nd win

WELCOAT coach Caloy Garcia couldn't wait to see the explosiveness that made Anthony Washington last conference's Fantastic Freshman awardee.

"We didn't see Washington's real game," said Garcia after the Paintmasters' opening-day win, 92-63, over Nenaco-San Bida in the of the PBL Unity Cup.

Thus, Garcia is expecting more offensive contributions from Washington when Welcoat shoots for its second straight win against Toyota Otis-Letran at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

Arwind Santos, too, is hoping to get help on the floor when he tries to lead Magnolia Ice Cream to its first victory against Nenaco-San Bida at 2 p.m.

Washington scored only five points and grabbed six rebounds, but big men Marvin Ortiguerra and Jay-R Reyes combined for 26 points to lead Welcoat.

Although the Paintmasters' veteran cast is

STANDINGS	W	L
Montafia	2	0
Toyota Otis	1	0
Welcoat	1	0
H. Centre	1	1
Granny Goose	1	1
Magnolia	0	1
Nenaco	0	1
Bacchus	0	2

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Nenaco
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Toyota Otis

clearly their advantage, Knights coach Louie Alas pointed out the maturity of his new recruits.

"We have to raise our game several notches higher to beat Welcoat," he said. "But the difference now is the experience of my new players."

Alas cited the immediate impact of former Granny Goose players Ardy Larong and Ron Capati and former AMP-Ateneo shooter Emerson Oreta, who drilled a side jumper in the final 13.5 seconds to shock Magnolia, 63-62, last Tuesday.

"The team has a high morale because of our win over Magnolia," said Alas as the Knights vie to join Montafia in the top spot at 2-0. "But I told the boys not to be contented with that achievement."

Garcia noted the Knights could be among the strong contenders this time. **Jasmine W. Payo**

Hot Jets hold off Spring five

PARAÑAQUE Jets subdued Laguna Spring, 74-68, Thursday to book the first finals seat in the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC final north pre-season basketball series at the CP Tinga gym in Tagig.

Elvis Tolentino knocked in two of his four triples late in the final quarter for the team of Parañaque Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana to hold off the Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro and power the Jets to their third straight win.

In the other game, RP-Cebuana Lhuillier capitalized on the free throw woes of Mayor Freddie

Tinga's Forward Taguig to win, 84-74, and improve its record to 2-0.

Ricky Ricafuente scored eight points as Taguig uncorked a 10-2 blast to threaten at 71-69.

But Jeff Bomboe scored on a jumper and, after Taguig committed a crucial three-second violation, the Nationals of Jean-Henri Lhuillier pulled away.

The Jets led 51-35 late in the third quarter, but Spring inched ahead, 63-62, on Sonny Manucat's basket in the last 3:01.

Tolentino unloaded his two triples to douse water on Spring's rally.

Reds put away Jungolf's 'Ryder Cup'

BAGUIO—The Red team took 11 matches the easy way and prevailed in seven more that lasted the distance to demolish the Blue squad in Jungolf's Ryder Cup-style showdown at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

The Reds turned what was expected to be a tight final round duel into a lopsided finish, pooling together 18 1/2 points against a mere 12 1/2 by the Blues to win pulling away.

Team captain Cyna Rodriguez's managed to hold Steven Limandibrata to the day's only draw but it became one of the high points of the ghost-

ly rout in singles of the tournament serving as the second leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour.

The final count was 34.5 for the Red team against the 27.5 of the Blue. It was a wire-to-wire win as the Reds led, 8-7, after the first day and was still up, 16-15, after Round 2.

Still, the wide margin was not reflective of the three days of pure excitement local jungolfers experienced playing the popular format that pit Americans against Europeans each year.

"It was such a memorable week for the kids and the experience certainly had plenty of

lessons. We will do this again," said Jungolf president Raoul Lachica.

Winning their matches for the Reds: Eman Kishida, Paulina Sotto, Rance Paglin, Augusto Pacheco, Chol Min Sik, Nico Monsalve, Michael Limandibrata, Annika Martinez, Marvi Monsalve, Charlene Abalos, Justin Lerma, Nash Paz, Justin Pe, Paulo Reyes, Felicia Medalla, Ahn Sleun, Chris Cartwright and Princess Superal.

Getting the points for Blue: Aaron Dimabuyo, Wolen Superal, Agustin Mala, Chris dela Cruz, Francis Marquez, Raphael de Dios, EJ Ang, Mara Monsalve, Gerard Mactal, Kim Mingi, Niki Paz and Joaquin Lerma.



PAULINA Sotto

SM mall tour marks PBA's 30th season

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association kicks off its 30th anniversary celebrations with a tour at the SM Megamall today.

The league's top 30 players will be feted, its 30 shining moments rekindled and the top 30 games that molded the PBA into what it is today will highlight the day of fun and entertainment.

Dubbed "Cheers for the Years," the touring display will have three shows—the "Ang Mga Bida Ng Liga," which will display the exploits and achievements of 30 of the league's best players; the "PBA Through the Years," which will capture the league's 30 major celebrations, including the grand slams; and the "(Kaya) Ito Ang (Naging) Game Ko!" which will put showcase the 30 most memorable games over the last 30 years.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala, his predecessor Jun Bernardino, coach Baby Dalupan, Bobong Velez, former stars Bogs Adornado, Alvin Patrimonio and Jojo Lastimoso will grace the 4 p.m. launch.

RP track bets down with flu (or is it 'meningo'?)

THE INJURIES and ailment plaguing the members of the national training pool will tell on the country's campaign in the foreign-flavored 2005 National Open and Invitational track and field championships slated April 14 to 17 at the Rizal Memorial track stadium.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field As-

sociation president Go Teng Kok yesterday confirmed that many of the country's top bets are down with the flu in Baguio City and won't be around to lock horns with their foreign counterparts in the four-day competition.

"Marami sa mga atleta natin ang nagka-flu (Many of our athletes down with the

flu) as reported to me by our coaches in Baguio," Go said during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura.

"It wasn't confirmed if it's meningococemia but the PSC (Philippine Sports Commission) has already extended its assistance. Kaya lang kulang daw kasi ang gamot na ipinadala (But the medicines

they sent were not enough).

"I'm going to Baguio next week to personally check our athletes' condition."

PSC officer-in-charge William "Butch" Ramirez and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco have been invited to open the competitions.



LAST but not the least: Last finisher Maritess del Rosario (219) pours it on as she nears the finish line of the National Age-Group Triathlon's second leg at the Davao Insular Waterfront Hotel over the weekend. Triathlon Association of Davao chair Oscar Escodero and spiritual director Alex Sam are among those encouraging Del Rosario to complete the "magic 60," a record number of NAGT finishers in Davao City.

Calatagan Am tees off today

CALATAGAN, Batangas—A field led by the finest amateurs in the land tees off today in the first Calatagan Amateur Open at the challenging Calatagan layout here.

Juvic Pagunsan, Jun Bernis and the others that make up the powerhouse Canlubang team in the Philippine Airlines Interclub lead a banner roster of 86 players seeking honors in the Championship and Class A, B and C divisions.

The event, organized by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation, will be the second regular event at the Calatagan complex after the Kalachuchi Classic.

The Kalachuchi, the club's member-guest tournament, will be played on April 30.

Veterans Abe Rosal and Dave Hernandez and club general manager Tommy Manotoc are also entered together with the top performers in the first National Caddies' Open, led by champion Junnel Ababa.

Ababa and six other participants of the NCO have been under serious training here since March and they will be tested for the first time in the 36-hole tournament.

Boyet Saragoza, a member of the national pool, Raymund Sangil and Erwin Vinluan are the other big names in the field.

Death in the ring

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



day nights.

The coroner said she died from blunt force trauma.

She was one of 2,200 currently registered female boxers since US Boxing lifted its ban on women's boxing in 1993.

Her death makes my mind race back to the Oscar Academy Award-winning film "Million Dollar Baby," where the leading lady, Oscar winner Hilary Swank, was reduced to a veritable vegetable after receiving an illegal punch right after the bell.

"The USA Boxing family's thoughts and prayers go out to Becky's family and husband. We are deeply saddened by this loss," said Sandy Martinez Pino, president of USA Boxing, the national sanctioning body for amateur boxing.

There is no doubt that boxing is a cruel sport. It can really kill.

Just a few days back, a boy of 17 in my hometown—a Pacquiao fan—had begged me to bring him to Manila and make him a boxer. I asked him to shadowbox and, boy, he could box. I told him, though, to clear his idea first with his mother (his father is dead).

I'm now having second thoughts, though, as to whether I'll be part of his dream or not.

Maybe it's because of Becky Zerlentes' death?

I READ in the papers that an American female boxer had died after figuring in a sanctioned fight about a week ago in Denver, Colorado. Becky Zerlentes' death came after she was knocked out in the third round.

Read the AP dispatch:

"It was the kind of blow that occurs thousands of times in boxing matches across the country. In the third round of a woman's bout, Becky Zerlentes took a shot to the head above her left eye, then staggered forward and fell to the canvas.

"Only this time, Zerlentes never regained consciousness and died, becoming the first female boxer to die in a sanctioned event."

The tragedy immediately revived calls to ban boxing altogether, including men's bouts.

Zerlentes' death stunned those who knew her.

"This is so much more than about boxing," said Mary Croissant, who taught with Zerlentes at Front Range Community College in Colorado. "She was the Energizer Bunny of our campus. She was turbo woman. She had a smile and a light in her heart that touched everyone she came in contact with. I miss her. I need her to still be alive."

Zerlentes was a 34-year-old college instructor remembered as a fun-loving, adventurous person who had a particular fondness for sports.

She held a Ph.D in geography, biked everywhere and left a husband.

She had a brown belt in taekwondo, but boxing fascinated her more than anything. She loved to compete in the Colorado Golden Gloves event Satur-

FINALLY, a poker tournament in the Philippines.

First off, I raise a glass to Rey Gamboa, the former PBA chair, for his pioneering efforts in giving the long overdue recognition due a card game that has been with man since time immemorial.

Poker, to the uninitiated, is not actually gambling per se. It is a game of skills and brain. While gambling is basically a game of luck, poker is first and foremost almost already a sport since it needs heart and mind, talent and faculty coordination in order to win.

Luck makes you a winner in gambling.

In poker, it is you alone that can either make you a winner or loser.

On April 16, Rey and his brother, Ray Butch, will launch the Poker King Challenge at Hyatt. A series of tournaments will lead to the Grand Finals in December this year.

"The tournament is to promote poker not as a wager game but as a game of skills where one's ability to calculate probabilities and to discern opponents' reactions are tested. This is a mind game and a business game as well," said Ray Butch, who is president of the Poker Club of the Philippines.

Ray Butch said Pageor will provide supervision, expert manpower and logistics to ensure the integrity of the tournament, which will award winners handsome prizes and trophies.

Only 60 players, who will pay P1,000 each as entry fee, will be accommodated. Call Poker Club of the Philippines at tel. 817-9092 and ask for Cindy. Visit www.PokerClubofthePhilippines.com for more details.

Indon race devil gets into groove

ROSARIO, Batangas—Indonesian racing star Ananda Mikola continued to dominate practice runs for the opening two legs of the 2005 Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix here this weekend, leading the field in two of four practice races and finishing in the top five in the other two Friday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Three-bond, clocked one minute and 23.874

seconds, the third best time in the first practice run. But he underscored his bid for the first two legs of the 12-leg event this weekend in the succeeding runs.

Defending champion Christian Jones of Christian Jones Motorsport, led the first practice run with a time of 1:23.4 at the 3.4-km track.

The Australian who drives with a Philippine license suffered a busted tire Thursday and failed to test the track.



Filipino Dado Peña of Team Goddard, second behind Mikola on Thursday, was

just as consistent, finishing a split second behind Jones. In the succeeding practice run, he nosed out compatriot Tyson Sy of Speedtech Asia in 1:24.5 seconds.

Two more practice runs were being held at presstime to allow drivers affected by Thursday's accident involving Japanese rookie Katsuhiko Konno.

Race and track officials worked double time Thursday to repair the track damaged by Konno's crash.



THE HEAT is on to get in pace with early favorite Ananda Mikola, naked from the waist up (right) after a scorching practice run yesterday.



PENA: A bit behind the pace

They later declared the track safe and ready for the qualifying time trial Saturday that will decide the pole position in the event backed by Addict Mobile, Motolite, Boysen, Yokohama Tires, Lima City Hotel and PLDT MyPad (www.pldtmypad).

Konno, of Denso Hanjin F3, slammed into a wall just before a turn after a long straightaway and wrecked his car. Although flames engulfed the car, he managed to walk away with a mere ankle injury. The crash, however, forced him out of the race tomorrow.

"We are ready for Sunday's races. Loopholes have been plugged," said BRC track manager Walter "Wowie" Michenela.

AF3 managing director Mark Goddard concurred with Michenela after inspecting the track Saturday morning.

Added safety measures were also put in place, like tire barriers at the site where Konno crashed. An ambulance crew was put on standby until Sunday in the event that has as media partners Magic 89.9, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite. Highlights of the race can be accessed at www.asianf3.net.

Tañamor whips N. Korean fighter

VETERAN Harry Tañamor scored an abbreviated victory over his North Korean rival Sunday to barge into the second round of the 15-nation 26th King's Cup International Boxing Championships in Bangkok.

Tañamor, aching to climb back into prominence after a forgettable stint in last year's Athens Olympics, simply overpowered the Korean So Sok, 26-6 RSC-OS (Referee Stopped contest Outsourced), in the third of their four-round bout.

The victory gave the Philippine team a 1-1 slate in its first outing in this world-ranking event being used by the Amateur Boxing Association as part of the tryouts for the members of the RP team to this year's Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Tañamor's win came before rookie Rolando Magbanua bowed to Thailand's Thongdan Krongjan in their bantamweight fight.

Magbanua from North Cotabato absorbed a 22-9 beating from the Thai, leaving Tañamor and four other Filipinos to carry the fight for the Philippines.

"While Tañamor was impressive with his sharp blows and timing, Magbanua proved to be one raw fighter, tentative in his movements and slow," observed Abap president Manny Lopez.

The Filipinos, coached by Leopoldo Cantancio and Elmer Pamisa, resume their bid Friday evening when middleweight Francis Joven tangles with Taiwan's Yang Ju-jing.

Jao guns for 9th Superbikes crown

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao opens his bid for an unprecedented ninth crown in today's kickoff leg of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas.

Jao, however, expects a tough fight this season with the emergence of younger but equally talented riders in the series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Philippines, Aeromed, Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Mo-



JAO: In fine form

Reigning Novice champion Aries Padiernos, runner-up Jeff Archer and third placer Philip Alvendia have all

tors, Denso and MOF Company.

Speedeffex's Benjo Mendoza, who proved to be Jao's strongest rival last year by taking three of the 12 races, will be around to challenge for the crown again.

The touring car series is supported by Yokohama and Celltron Marketing Co.

moved up to join Jao, Mendoza, Toti Alberto of Ducati-Access Plus, Randy Ortiz and Julian Goitia in the Expert division.

The Superbikes series is one of the three major races at the BRC today.

Even though the 2005 Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix will be the main crowd drawer, the 2005 National Touring Car Championship is also expected to gain its share of attention with Jody Coseteng of Caltex-SMB Strong Ice starting the defense of his title.

The touring car series is supported by Yokohama and Celltron Marketing Co.

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DiMarco leads wet and wild Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia—The rain wasn't a surprise. Neither were three of the names on the leaderboard.

But hardly anything else went according to plan on a wet and wacky opening to the Masters.

Tiger Woods hit a shot into Rae's Creek with his putter.

Billy Casper knocked five straight shots into the water at the par-3 16th.

Ernie Els spent most of his day tromping through the woods.

"It doesn't matter who you are or who that golf ball belongs to when you're on the tee," said Shaun Micheel, who struggled to a 75. "It makes you look silly at times."

Chris DiMarco was atop the leaderboard at 4 under par, but he still had four holes to play when darkness settled over Augusta National.

Mark Hensby was first in the clubhouse with a 3-under 69 in his Masters debut, one of just 24 players who completed the round after heavy rains delayed the start by nearly 5 1/2 hours.

"It's hard to have expectations on such a demanding golf course," the Australian said.

Right on their heels were three golfers with high expectations: defending champion Phil Mickelson, top-ranked Vijay Singh and two-time US Open winner Retief Goosen.

Woods was nowhere to be found; neither was Els.

Woods hasn't broken par in the first round of the Masters since he won in 2002, and that's where he was headed again, standing 2 over with six holes to play.

His signature shot came at the par-5 13th, which he reached in two with a risky shot out of the pines. But he misjudged the speed on a 70-foot eagle putt so badly that the ball raced by the hole, tumbled down the bank and went into Rae's Creek.

Woods left the ball there, replayed the putt and fared much better, two-putting for a bogey.

Els, the runner-up to Mickelson last year and a perennial Masters contender, spent more time in the trees than the fairway. No wonder he was 3 over through 11 holes.

Of course, no one looked sillier than Casper.

At 73, after sitting out the last three years, he decided to return for one more Masters. Not his best decision.

Casper took a 14 at the par-3 16th—the highest in Masters history for any hole—and finished with a 106, 11 strokes more than the previous record for futility. But it won't go in the books because he decided not to turn in his scorecard.

"I sort of figured before I played that I wasn't going to sign it," said Casper, officially listed as withdrawn.

The 68 players still on the course when the horn sounded were set to return at 1245 GMT (9:45 a.m. EDT) Friday to complete the opening round. Barring any more weather delays, the tournament should be back to normal—if there is such a thing at Augusta—by the weekend.

The rain was routine. For the fourth straight week, and the ninth time in 15 tournaments this year, bad weather delayed a round.

DiMarco birdied three straight holes late in the day to claim the top spot.

Trying to hold down his No. 1 ranking, Singh was a model of consistency. Along with picking up three birdies on the front nine, Singh twice saved par with 10-foot putts. His only bogey came on his final hole, a three-putt from about 100 feet at No. 11.

"I hit my driver beautifully and had some good saves," Singh said. "It was just disappointing how I finished."

Mickelson opened with a bogey, but kept himself out of trouble most of the day and gave himself ample birdie chances. He chipped in for birdie on No. 2, stuck a wedge inside 4 feet on the third and twice made pars with beautiful lag putts to within 3 feet.

Goosen, the forgotten figure in all the hype over the "Big Four," made a rare birdie on the par-3 12th, then recovered from a tee shot into the azaleas on the par-5 13th to escape with par. He was minus 2.

TIGER Woods tosses his putter after a missed birdie at No. 14. Little did he know that the weather was yet to come at No. 15.

Davenport grabs quarterfinal slot

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida—Lindsay Davenport needed just 55 minutes to beat Kveta Peschke, 6-2, 6-2, before rain canceled most of the evening and afternoon matches Thursday at the Bausch & Lomb Championships.

Fifth-seeded Venus Williams and Marta Domachowska were tied at one set each before the delay. They will finish their match Friday. The winner will face Davenport.

All other Thursday matches—including the one between second-seeded Serena Williams and former Bausch & Lomb champion Mary Pierce—have been rescheduled for Friday.

Serena Williams beat unseeded Dally Radrantefy, 6-3, 6-1, in 52 minutes Wednesday night in a second-round match.

Venus Williams lost the first set 6-3, but came back to take the second set 6-4. The players were tied at 30-30 in the first game of the third set when the rain came.

Davenport broke Peschke twice in her first three service games to take the first set in 30 minutes, before dropping the first two games of the second set.

She then used a variety of forehand and backhand winners, limiting Peschke to just

nine total points the rest of the match in winning the final six games of the set.

"Sometimes I do that," Davenport said about her slow start in the second set. "I seem to get not as concentrated in the beginning of that set. But I broke right back and didn't make much of an issue of it."

In the only other match completed Thursday, sixth-seeded Vera Zvonareva beat ninth-seeded Elena Likhovtseva, 6-4, 6-4.

Also Wednesday, Anastasia Myskina advanced to the round of 16 with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory over unseeded Shahar Peer of Israel.



WILLIAMS: Match tied

Bowe scores decision

TEMECULA, California—Former heavyweight champion Riddell Bowe won the second fight of his comeback Thursday after a nearly eight-year layoff, taking a round split decision over journeyman Billy Zumbrun.

The 37-year-old Bowe weighed 128 kilograms (280 pounds), by the most of his career, and 241 grams (54 pounds) more than game Zumbrun. At 1.94 meters (6-foot-4 1/2), Bowe also towered over his 5-11 opponent.

"My feeling was that I didn't want to lose a whole lot of weight for this fight," said Bowe, who weighed in at 128 kilograms (280 pounds), a larger girth than his chest.

Bowe, who sent Zumbrun crashing to the canvas with a powerful left to the body in the fourth round over the course of the bout, appeared to take more punishment than he gave.

Judges David Denkin and Filippo still favored Bowe by scores of 96-92. Ray Corona had Zumbrun winning 95-93.

When the judges' scoring was announced, there was a chorus of boos from the crowd ringside at the Pechanga Resort and Casino.

Armstrong retirement 'a possibility'

NEW YORK—Lance Armstrong is considering retiring after he tries for a record seventh straight Tour de France victory this July.

"It's a possibility," Armstrong said on Thursday while in New York to support its 2012 Olympic bid. "I am still thinking about that."

Comments Armstrong made to Italian media last week that he missed his kids and the pressure was taking a toll on him fueled speculation that this year's Tour de France would be his last.

"Four more months and it's over," the 33-year-old was quoted as saying in Gazzetta dello Sport.

His new two-year contract to race for the Discovery Channel

team requires he race just one more Tour de France.

On Thursday, Armstrong said he would have plenty of responsibilities to occupy his time if he was to retire.

"I'd have a lot to do with the fight against cancer," said Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to become one of cycling's all-time greats. "That is enough to keep me busy for the next 50 years. I have three young kids that I want to be a full-time father."

Armstrong was in Manhattan to backpedal from his endorsement of Paris as the possible host city for the 2012 Summer Olympics. New York, London, Moscow and Madrid are the oth-

er four finalists, with a winner to be selected by the International Olympic Committee on July 6.

On March 9, just as the IOC began assessing Paris' bid, Armstrong said, "to be fair, I think that Paris deserves the Olympics."

A day later, he said: "New York City is the bid of my heart."

On Thursday, he tried to straighten it all out.

"A few weeks ago, I tried to be extremely diplomatic in a country I have not always been diplomatic in," Armstrong said of his comments in France, made while he was competing in the Paris-Nice race. "I think I created a bit of a stir in New York City."

Wearing a red hat with the

NYC2012 logo on it, Armstrong said: "This kid from Texas absolutely loves this city."

"This is absolutely the greatest city in the world. This is the city for the 2012 Olympics," he said. "We have everything. Everything is ready. Again, I have to apologize a little for the confusion."

Later this month, the former Olympian will race in the Tour de Georgia, returning to defend his title as he trains to compete for the Tour de France. And, he says, he'll continue to support New York's Olympic bid.

"I want to be clear: I think all the other cities are deserving," Armstrong said. "But none of them deserve it like New York City."



LANCE Armstrong (right) rides with New York City deputy mayor Dan Doctoroff.

Cleveland rallies past stunned Chicago

CHICAGO—Casey Blake, Coco Crisp and Ronnie Belliard hit ninth-inning homers off Shingo Takatsu, and the Cleveland Indians rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Chicago White Sox, 11-5, Thursday behind Victor Martinez's go-ahead single in the 11th.

The White Sox built a 5-0 lead by the fourth inning against starter Cliff Lee but were stymied by Rafael Betancourt, David Riske, Bob Howry, Arthur Rhodes (1-0) and Matt Miller, who combined for 7 2-3 innings of three-hit, shutout relief.

"I'm sick to my stomach right now, but there's nothing you can do about it," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said.

Blake's homer leading off the ninth cut the deficit to 5-3, and Takatsu gave up two-out homers to Crisp and Belliard on consecutive pitches.

"Whenever I come in against these guys, I can tell they really want to hit off me," Takatsu said through a translator.

Luis Vizcaino (0-1), Chicago's seventh pitcher, gave up a two-run single to Martinez in the 11th that put Cleveland ahead 7-5.

Tigers 7, Royals 3

In Detroit, Jason Johnson (1-0) allowed five hits in 6 2-3 shutout innings, Ivan Rodriguez had four hits and Rondell White homered after Kansas City starter Zack Greinke was knocked out of the game by a line drive.

Mike Wood (0-1), the third of five Kansas City pitchers, allowed three runs and four hits in 2 2-3 innings.

Athletics 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Eric Byrnes hit a three-run homer to break an eighth-inning tie, and Oakland received a strong pitching performance from newcomer Danny Haren to beat Baltimore.

Mark Kotsay had two hits and scored a run for the Athletics, who rebounded from an opening-day loss to take two of three from Baltimore.

Brian Roberts led off the Orioles' first inning with a home run, but Baltimore managed only four hits.

A steady rain drenched the field from the outset and limited attendance to 16,395—the smallest crowd in the 14-year history of Camden Yards.

Haren, who came to the A's in the trade that sent Mark Mulder to St. Louis, allowed one run and three hits in six innings in his American League debut. Baltimore's Erik Bedard gave up one run and three hits in seven innings.

Ricardo Rincon (1-0) got the win with a perfect seventh, and Kiko Calero finished with two scoreless innings.

Steve Kline (0-1) took the loss.



RONNIE Belliard of the Cleveland Indians hits a double in a six-run eleventh inning against the Chicago White Sox in Chicago, Illinois.

Casper's 106 not a record

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Billy Casper earned the right to make Masters history Thursday.

But Casper decided to pocket his scorecard, rather than turn it in to tournament officials, after taking 106 strokes to complete his opening round at Augusta National Golf Club.

Because Casper held on to his card, he did not officially post a score and will not replace the mark of Charles Kunkle Jr. for highest competitive score in any Masters round.

Kunkle, an amateur, shot a 95 in the final round of the 1956 event. Casper, the 1970 Masters champion, blew that mark out of the water Thursday and laughed about it afterward.

"The golf course plays awfully long for me. I'm proud to finish," said Casper, 73, who needed 14 strokes at the par-3 16th hole and collected just three pars during his birdie-free journey.

"I have the card in my pocket and

I'm going to frame it."

No penalty

Masters officials ruled there would be no penalty on Tiger Woods after they were alerted by a television viewer about a potential rules infraction on Woods' tap-in for par at the 14th hole.

Woods putted with one foot in front of the other and his foot near the line of his putt, causing the viewer to suggest Woods might have violated Rule 16-1e stating that a player "must not make a stroke on the putting green from a stance astride, or with either foot touching, the line of putt or an extension of that line behind the ball."

Will Nicholson, chair of the Masters competition committee, said: "We reviewed the tape and the tape was inconclusive. No penalty will be assessed."

It's a chase

Three competitors have mathemat-

cal opportunities to emerge as the world's top-ranked golfer after Sunday's final round. Vijay Singh, the current No. 1, would stay there unless he is overtaken by Tiger Woods (No. 2) or Ernie Els (No. 3).

Els must win the tournament to become No. 1 in the rankings. That can happen if Els wins the while Singh finishes tied for fourth or worse and Woods winds up in a tie for fifth or worse.

Unlike Els, Woods can become No. 1 without winning the title. That is possible under four different scenarios, all of which require Woods to finish fifth or better while Singh is further back in the pack.

Els, for one, is excited about his possibility to move up at Augusta.

"I've been No. 3 now for a long time, and you want to step it up a little bit," Els said. "I'd love to be No. 1 in this day and age, even if it's only for a week." *New York Times News Service*

So that the racing public may know

Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 17 has classified EIA as priority E on animal disease, a disease for companion animals like cat and dogs. The DA has classified priority A, a disease subject for eradication not EIA. To date officially no single death has been recorded on EIA that points to epidemic proportion.

So, I say anyone supporting EIA (equine infectious anemia)

Eradication program is lacking in normal intelligence or understanding, is slow witted or dull.

Don Blazer, Top Horseman
<http://www.donblazer.com>

ERNIE Els of South Africa is one of three superstar golfers who can end up No. 1 at the end of the Masters.

TRYING DAY

Tiger putt plunges into creek

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Tiger Woods looked stunned as the ball sped past the hole toward the edge of the 13th green. A collective gasp came from the crowd as the ball kept going, going, going, finally trickling down a hill into a creek in front of the green.

Incredibly, the best player of his time had just putted—yes, putted—a ball into the water.

Just four holes into a Masters he came into brimming with confidence, Woods had committed one of golf's ultimate sins. What began as a putt for eagle ended with a nice 2-putt just to save a bogey. Still to be determined is whether it will cost Woods the chance to snap a major championship drought that's lasted nearly three years.

Tossed clubs

Things didn't get any better on a day when Woods tossed clubs, kicked his bag, and watched one of his shots hit a pin and go into a bunker before darkness halted his struggles after only 12 holes.

And just for good measure, Woods had to sit through a review by Masters officials over whether he was standing astride the hole while tapping in a putt on the 14th hole. After looking at video, officials ruled there was no violation.

Woods finished the day 2-over through 12 holes, already six shots off the lead. And that was just two days after telling the media his game was peaking.

"I know my ball striking is there," Woods said.

Whether he felt the same after a gloomy day on rain-soaked Augusta National wasn't known. After being driven in from the course when play was suspended by darkness, Woods declined comment and quickly drove off with a rules official.

Whatever he was thinking couldn't have been good.

Woods not only putted a ball in the water, he also duck-hooked a drive into a tree on No. 2 and then sprayed his next shot into the trees all the way on the other side of the fairway.

Disgusted

Disgusted with himself, Woods kicked at his bag as he walked up to the ball in the woods. He then hit his next shot into a greenside bunker and had to hole a 25-footer for par.

And even when Woods hit it good, bad things happened.

His wedge on the first hole hit the pin, only to kick back and roll into the front bunker. What likely would have been a birdie turned into a bogey, further dampening his mood.

Pope rues not praying for Poland

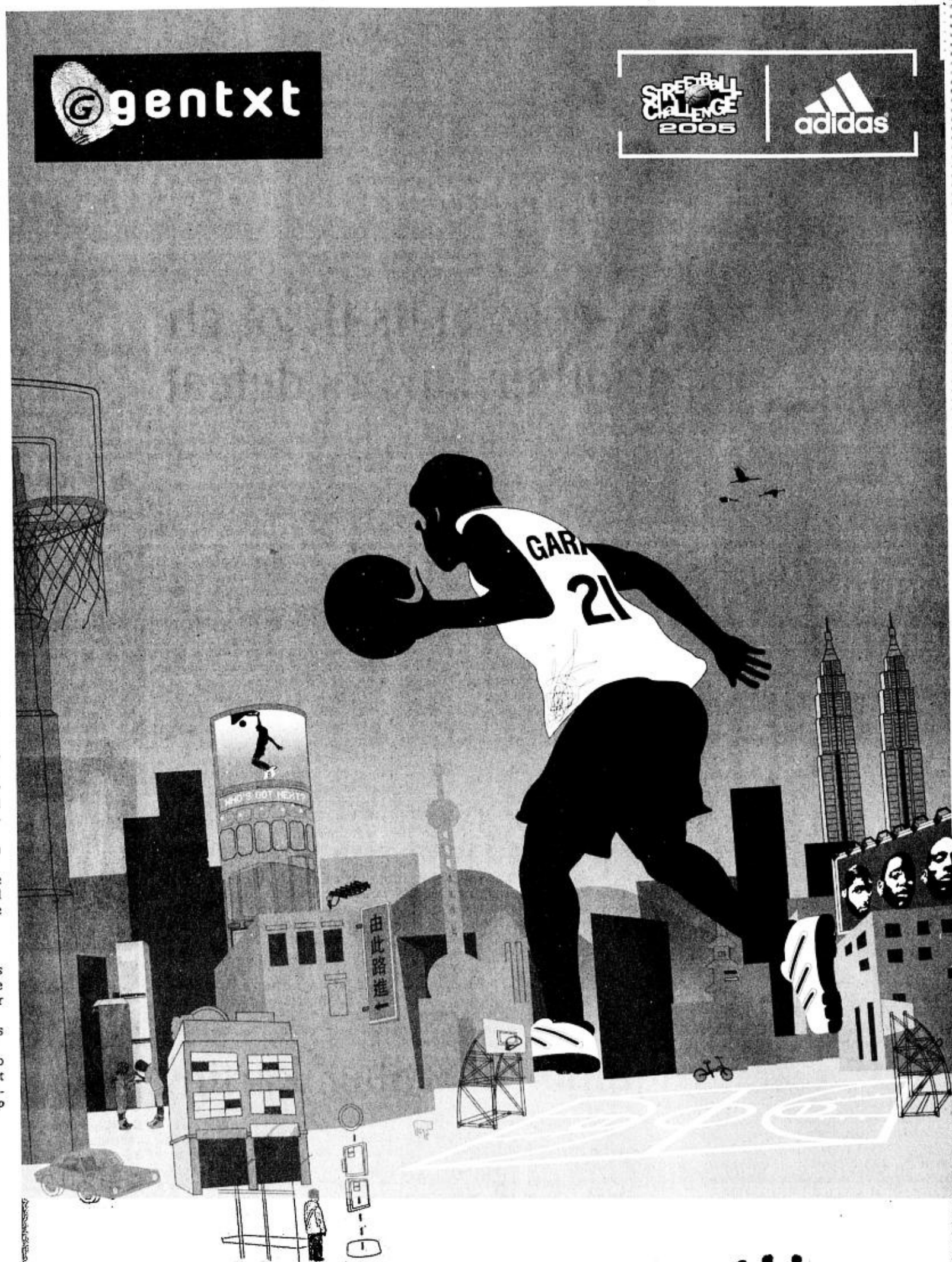
WARSAW—The late Pope John Paul regretted not praying for his native Poland during the 1982 World Cup finals in Italy, according to former Poland and Juventus playmaker Zbigniew Boniek.

Boniek told the private television station Polsat that the Poland team met the Pontiff before the tournament and asked for his prayers. The Pope declined, saying "God does not have favorites in football," Boniek said.

Several months later, Boniek again visited the Vatican, this time with Juventus, when the Pope's personal secretary Stanislaw Dziwisz unexpectedly called him over.

"Father Dziwisz told me that if the Pope had known Poland would come in third place in the World Cup, he would have prayed," said Boniek, now a successful businessman.

Poland lost to eventual winners Italy, 2-0, in the semifinals.



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IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

Nets, Mavs maul foes

Kidd sparks New Jersey closer to playoff berth

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jason Kidd had 28 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his 66th career triple-double, and the New Jersey Nets kept their slim playoff hopes alive by beating the Knicks 110-98 Thursday night in a physical game that sent New York to its season-high eighth straight loss.

The win was the eighth in 11 games for the Nets (37-39), and it moved them within a game of idle Philadelphia (37-37) in the race for the last playoff slot in the East. New Jersey has six games left, two less than the 76ers.

The loss pushed the Knicks (29-45) to the brink of being eliminated from playoff contention. A win by Philadelphia win or a loss by the Knicks will end the misery for the team.

Vince Carter added 32 points for the Nets, whose 27-point third-quarter lead dwindled to 95-89 midway through the fourth quarter.

"We talk about playoffs but we have to play like it," Carter said. "It's got to come from your Captain. J (Jason) really started it for us."

Mavericks 104, Spurs 68

In Dallas, Keith Van Horn scored 10 of his 17 points during the game-breaking third quarter and the Mavericks avoided a season sweep by the Tim Duncan-less Spurs, San Antonio's most

lopsided loss since falling to Seattle by 38 in 2001.

It also was the Mavs' biggest victory margin over the Spurs, topping a 32-point win in January 1989.

San Antonio, which has lost six straight road games since their two-time MVP was injured, never had a chance in this one. The Spurs never led and only had it tied at 2. They scored just 27 points over the middle two quarters, shooting just 2-for-17 in the third period. They finished 0-for-12 on 3-pointers, the first time all season they failed to hit one.

Brent Barry led San Antonio with 12 points.

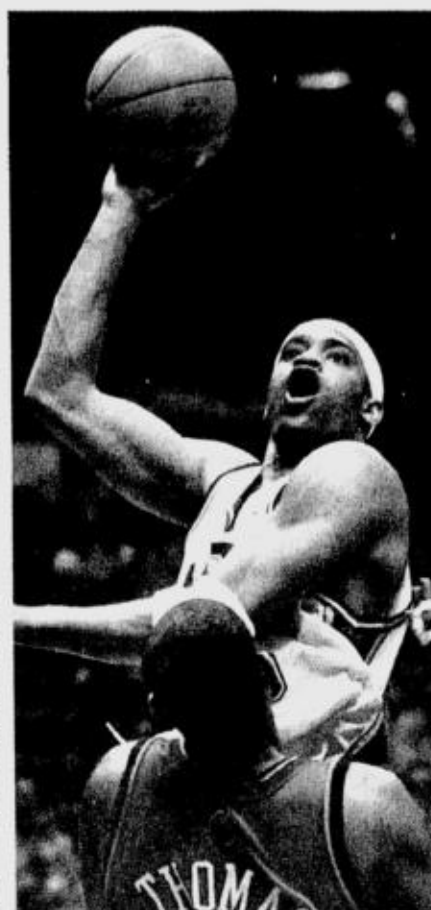
Rockets 114, Lakers 100

In Los Angeles, Tracy McGrady had 27 points and seven assists, and Houston beat slumping Los Angeles with former Lakers coach Phil Jackson in attendance.

The Rockets snapped a three-game losing streak and handed Los Angeles its fifth straight loss, and 13th in 14 games. The Lakers (33-42) are assured of their first losing record since they went 33-49 in the 1993-94 season. This year and that season are the only times they've failed to qualify for the playoffs since 1976.

Jackson watched the game from owner Jerry Buss' luxury suite. Jackson hadn't seen the Lakers play in person since last June, when he coached them in the NBA Finals. Shortly thereafter, the decision was made that he wouldn't return this season.

Caron Butler had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant returned after sitting out one



NEW JERSEY guard Vince Carter shoots over New York forward Tim Thomas.

game with a bruised right shin, had his fifth triple-double of the season with 19 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Ex-coach sits through another Lakers defeat

LOS ANGELES—Maybe Phil Jackson saw something different than everyone else from Jerry Buss' luxury suite Thursday night. Maybe he saw something other than a Lakers team that has lost 13 of 14 games playing out the last two weeks of the season.

Maybe he didn't see Kobe Bryant shoot 4 for 19 with his right leg heavily wrapped. Maybe he didn't see the Lakers surrender more than 100 points for the umpteenth time. Maybe he didn't see the crowd booing in the final minute.

Or maybe Jackson just crossed his first team off the list of those he will consider this summer.

He sat impassively through the Lakers' loss to the Houston Rockets at Staples Center, their first game since being eliminated from playoff contention and the fifth consecutive defeat in what is fast becoming another dismal streak.

Jackson was not available to reporters at the game, and interim coach Frank Hamblen, a Jackson assistant for seven seasons, had only one wish afterward.

"I hope he had to pay his way in," Hamblen said.

Since returning in February from his six-week vacation to Australia and New Zealand, Jackson has said little publicly about his intentions. He sat next to girlfriend Jeanie Buss at Thursday's game and two seats from Buss himself.

Everyone said in advance that Jackson and Buss were not going to talk business. In fact, they said almost nothing to each other during the game. Some of the Lakers players, meanwhile, said they didn't even know Jackson was there.

"I don't want to get caught up in speculation of what might happen next season or in the off-season because we still have a season to play here," Bryant said.

With Jackson not being shown on the video board, the crowd had no opportunity to ac-

knowledge the coach who was part of three championship seasons and might best represent hope to Lakers fans.

The Lakers, playing for nothing more than pingpong balls, would have the No. 10 pick if the NBA Draft lottery holds to form. They fell to 33-42 and have five more games in a row to play against Western Conference playoff teams.

Hamblen could cite another invisible defensive effort afterward. With a chance to play spoiler against a Houston team fighting to stay in sixth place, the Lakers instead saw all nine Rockets who played score above their season average.

Tracy McGrady led all scorers with 27 points, hitting five of his first six shots. Yao Ming scored 21 points, and Scott Padgett added 16 points off the bench. The Lakers are 7-36 when an opponent scores 100 points or more.

"When you really aren't going anywhere," Hamblen said, "sometimes you'd rather score than maybe sacrifice yourself defensively."

Caron Butler finished with 24 points but four of his shots were blocked in the first half. The first three were by Yao, the fourth by 38-year-old Dikembe Mutombo, who wagged his finger afterward in a throwback to old days.

After sitting out Tuesday's loss to Phoenix with a bruised shin, Bryant found a way on the floor against the Rockets. Despite a poor shooting night, Bryant recorded his fifth triple-double of the season: 19 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists.

The Lakers have seven games left in the season, and Hamblen said he had a priority when he returns from this weekend's trip to Seattle and Sacramento.

"When I get back, I'm going to call (Jackson)," Hamblen said. "Ask him what he thinks for the rest of the way about our guys and what we should do." *New York Times News Service*

Aquino rules Shell karting

OLIVER Aquino of Bosch Intelco ruled the Formula Rotax Max Novice class recently in the second leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Boom na Boom Kart Track of the CGP Complex in Roxas Boulevard.

Aquino, last year's KT Light champion, had a rough time warding off Jean Marcelo in the early goings of the race.

But the big break came in the last five laps when Marcelo spun out, giving enough room for Aquino to breathe and claim the checkered flag in 15:02.075.

Arvin Gonzales took the runner-up finish for good checking in 14.455 seconds later with newcomer Raymond Bustamante in third as Marcelo

dropped to eighth place.

Paolo Esiao likewise displayed the same consistency as he defeated Jeje Villena and actor Onemig Bondoc in the KT Light division of the race sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgeston by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Khaos, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance.

Six-year-old Vencer Suba of the Cebu Racing Group showed the making of a future racing superstar when he ruled the Cadet 60 Novice class over Paolo Gonzales and third placer Joey Orduna.

Javy Benitez ruled the Cadet 60 Expert class.

SUCCESSFUL

STAGING: PowerEdge officials (left to right) Ruby Klausner Sr., account manager; Alice dela Cruz, VP-sales and marketing; Lucien Magpantay, president; Joris Spanhoff, managing director and Oscar Crie Sr. account manager, celebrate the successful staging of the 1ST PowerEdge Invitational Golf Tournament.



DALLAS Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki drives to the basket.

REUTERS

Aguilar, San Andres eye big finishes

CALTEX Revtex's Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres eye another successful campaign in the 2005 Camel Supercross Series.

The two made waves in the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship Motocross Masters of Asia recently in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Currently second and sixth in the Asian championship scoreboard, Aguilar and San Andres lived up to expectations by pulling off overpowering performances in the Pro Open and Expert 125 divisions.

The 2005 Motocross Masters of Asia will be telecast tomorrow, 2 p.m. on ABC-5's Speed.

The two will see action anew when the national motocross series resumes with the kickoff of the 2005 Camel Supercross series next month in Roxas City.

The second round of the Camel Supercross series will take place in early June and will serve as the tune-up run for the Philippine contingent competing in round 3 of the FIM Asian Motocross series slated in Macau on June 25.

Aguilar delivered an overpowering performance in the premiere Pro Open class of the national series to bolster his bid for a ninth Rider of the Year title.

San Andres topped the Expert 125 division, where he handily repulsed the challenge posed by second PJ Alabanza and Carlo Rodriguez.

The Palawan event was sponsored by the City of Puerto Princesa, the Philippines Olympic Committee, the Philippine Sports Commission, the Department of Tourism, Cebu Pacific, Negros Navigation, Dickies, 2Go Aboitiz, HJC Helmets, Oakley, Highland Products, yehey.com, motorcyclephilippines.com, Inside Racing, Broadband Philippines, Dusit Hotel, Hotel Asturias, Sports Plus, Caltex Revtex, Asian Spirit and GCG Pipes.

Chinese No. 1 gains q'finals

TOKYO—China's world number one Lin Dan reached the quarterfinals of the Japan Open badminton tournament with a 15-2, 15-7 win over Malaysian Lee Tsuen Seung on Thursday.

Lin's title rival Peter Gade of Denmark and Indonesia's Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat also advanced to the last eight in Tokyo.

Lin underlined his title credentials with a dominating performance as seven of the top eight seeds progressed safely to the quarterfinals.

Second seed Gade brushed aside South Korea's Lee Chool-ho, 15-5 15-6, while eighth seed Hidayat beat Malaysia's Kuan Beng Hong, 15-9 15-11.

Reuters

SPORTSWATCH

PNP tops table tennis tourney

THE PHILIPPINE National Police men's team beat Iloilo, 3-0, to win the non-rank team event title of the 7th UP Chancellor's Cup Table Tennis National Open yesterday at the UP Kinetic gym. PO2 Rodel Valle, 27, dismantled Johanne Ramanezes, 3-0, while Harold Baring gave PNP its second victory with a 3-2 triumph over Cyrus Tolentino. Jong Ortalla provided the finishing kick for PNP, beating Christopher Castillo, 3-2, in the tournament organized by UP College of Human Kinetics Professor Oscar Santelices.

Robinsons hosts Milo checkmate

ROBINSONS Place-Pioneer in Mandaluyong City and Whiz Child Kindergarten in Retiro, Quezon City are among the host venues for the third series of Milo Checkmate summer chess clinics which reel off on April 11. The clinic in Robinsons Place-Pioneer will be held at the mall's activity area from 2:00-5:30 p.m. and at the Whiz Child from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Registration is open at the J&F Divino Bldg. Call 4358412 or 8268560 and 09168521069 for details. Interested parties may also register at the venue site of their choice. For Whiz Child call 7428796 or 4123847.

Global basketball action resumes

ACTION resumes today in the Global Destiny Basketball League eliminations in four venues. At the Barangay Sta. Lucia covered courts in San Juan, San Juan Yellow battles San Juan Gray at 1 p.m. in the event supported by Solid Video Corp., Sony Philippines and MyDestiny Cable Internet. San Juan Green tackles San Juan Light Blue at 2:30 p.m. while San Juan Violet meets San Juan Brown at 4 p.m. At the Verdant covered court in Las Piñas City, Las Piñas Orange meets Las Piñas Yellow at 1 p.m. while Las Piñas Blue takes on Las Piñas Brown at 2:30 p.m.



DANCE CHAMPS: Multititled Rener Mercado and partner Judith Melencio top the recent Youth A Standard championship of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines First Quarter Ranking and Competition at the Philsports Arena. Also shown are second placers Manuel and Marissa Alovera, DSCP president Becky Garcia and main sponsor Petron Corp. president Khalid Al-Faddagh.

NCA stalwarts clash

STALWARTS of the premiere National Cockers Association (NCA) clash on April 12 and 14 in the upcoming 7-cock derby at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. The 3-cock elimination round will be featured on April 12 with the finals on April 14. Entries must be submitted on Monday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. Participants may call 9112928 and 9113101 for details. Meanwhile, the second leg of 2005 World Slasher Cup 8-Cock Invitational Derby is slated on June 14, 16 and 18.

Roligon hosts 4-cock tilt

THE ROLIGON Mega Cockpit hosts the BJ Sniper 4-Cock derby which will feature more than 60 fights beginning at 6 p.m. Seeling action are cockers and breeders from Pasig, Marikina, Pateros, Parañaque, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasay, Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, Negros Occidental and Cebu. Participants may still submit their entries until 2 p.m. today and may call 8332275, 8331638 and 8529812 for details. Meanwhile, about 100 participants have signed up for the much-awaited Filcoba Grand Championship 5-Cock Derby on April 11, 13 and 16.

Pacquiao joins Las Piñas derby

THE EXPLOSIVE showdown of big-time derby champions finally unfolds today when the 330 K Big Event 6-Cock Derby gets going at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum at 4 p.m. Today's 70-fight program will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Crowd favorite Patrick Antonio will be challenged by equally tough opponents. Aficionados are also eager to see the imported gamewows of boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao who emerged as champion in the NCA 5-Cock Derby last week at Pasay Cockpit. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

FG Foundation releases P92M for RP athletes

NATIONAL athletes can now focus on their training and need not worry about funding.

Taking cognizance of the proximity of the Southeast Asian Games the country is hosting, the First Gentleman Foundation has approved the release of P92 million for Filipino athletes competing in 31 sports in the biennial meet slated late November in Manila and three other satellite venues.

FG Foundation executive director Tessa Mangahas said a portion of this amount, has already been allocated to eight sports with athletics getting P3.7 million and boxing P1.9 million both from their designated 'godfather' San Miguel Corp.

Mangahas, who appeared as guest in yesterday's SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session, said the Lucio Tan Group of Companies is, likewise, set to release P1.4 million to shooting for the national shooting team's participation in the coming International Practical Shooting Federation World Cup.

Athletics' allocation forms part of its athletes' equipment needs," Mangahas said, baring that the P92 million came from the P160 million raised under the FG Foundation's Medalyang Ginto project.

Other sports associations that have so far availed of a part of their funding requirements are archery, P556,000, also from SMC; sepak takraw, P391,000 from Reynaldo

David; cycling, P300,000 from Pagcor; lawn tennis, P993,000 from Globe Telecom; muay thai, P450,000; and pencak silat, P600,000.

"All these sports represent those which have submitted their training program and passed through the scrutiny of the a four-man screening committee, which the Foundation, in turn, endorsed to their respective godfathers," Mangahas explained.

The screening committee, headed by former Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason, is also made up of former Project: Gintong Alay executive directors Joey Romasanta and Michael Keon and Philippine Olympic committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros.

Keon, a former Philippine Olympic committee president, has been designated national training director by PSC officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez.

"Some sports associations have either not yet submitted their recommendations or, if they already had, such recommendations have yet to reach the FG Foundation," she said in reference to badminton, billiards and snooker, bodybuilding, cycling, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics, weightlifting and wrestling.

Mangahas said fund allocations should be expended for the athletes' international exposure, purchase of basic equipment and medicine.



THE BORACAY Dragons step into high gear for their title defense in the Cali Boracay Fever.

Boracay Dragons face tough rivals in Cali Boracay Fever

THE FAMED white sand of Boracay will be the battleground of the much-awaited Beach Ultimate showdown of the year, the Cali Boracay Fever 2005.

The Defending Beach Ultimate champions, the Boracay Dragons, will go head-to-head against the best teams from all over the region in the tournament slated on April 23 and 24.

Sponsored by Cali, the non-alcoholic, sparkling, fruit-flavored drink, Cali Boracay Fever 2005 is Asia's biggest Beach Ultimate tournament, and highly anticipated by the sport's premier teams through-

out the region.

The Boracay Dragons will defend their title for the first time since dethroning Hong Kong as Beach Ultimate's champions.

"We are expecting more teams to participate this year. It will be an ultimate battle of foreign and local teams that makes this year's edition more exciting and thrilling this summer," said project director Richard Acenas of X10 Events.

The event will also feature the Cali Boracay G-Mix Bartending Competition, which will bring together the country's

top bartenders in a battle of slick moves and killer drinks. Cali adds its refreshing fruit flavor to the bartending spectacle, sure to be a lively hit among the island's partying denizens.

Beach Ultimate is the summer incarnation of Ultimate, the hottest alternative sport in the country today.

It puts a premium on stamina, speed, precision, athleticism and agility, rewarding the spectators with diving interceptions, fast plays and spectacular catches. The sport does away with contact and emphasizes teamwork and quickness.

Castañares defends WBF title vs Aussie

MANDAUE CITY—World Boxing Foundation junior welter king Dindo Castañares will defend his world crown for the first time on April 30 against Australian Steven Marks at the 6,000-capacity Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex here.

This was announced yesterday by Mandaue City Sports Development Commission chair Ms Cheryl Ouano and promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani in a press conference at the Mandaue City Hall.

"This is a go," said Ms Ouano, wife of Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Ouano. "The commission is solidly backing this world boxing event, as well as Mayor Ouano."

Gello-ani said that by having the event in Mandaue, Castañares is already enjoying a big advantage in terms of crowd support.

"We could have brought Castañares to New Zealand or Australia to defend his title, but instead we are staging it in Mandaue City because this is a place known as the hotbed

of Philippine boxing, and we want to support the city's sports program," Gello-ani said.

According to Gello-ani, Australian Ignatius Missailidis has been tapped to be the third man for the 12-round bout.

WBF president Mick Croucher will be present for the event, flying in on April 27 to supervise the bout along with WBF Philippine representative Alex Vidal.

"I am coming to the show," Croucher told the INQUIRER in an overseas call. "The Filipinos deserve no less than a big event like this."

Ms Ouano, who also bared Governor Gwen Garcia's support for the event, added that a giant screen will be put outside the coliseum.

Castañares is currently sparring against OPBF junior lightweight champ Randy Suico, RP junior welter champ Bart Abapo, and RP welter king Dondon Sultan at the ALA Gym. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*



MARIANO: In contention

Mariano, Gonzales beat foes

FILIPINO Grandmaster Nelson Mariano II and compatriot International Master Jayson Gonzales won with the white pieces late Thursday to stay in contention after four rounds of the 7th Dubai International Open Chess Championship at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Army enlisted men Mariano and Gonzales climbed to 2.5 points and shared 38th to 61st places in the event dubbed as the Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Al Maktoum Cup.

The 30-year-old Mariano, seeded 55th, beat Fide Master Adel Omearat of Syria after 37 moves of a Benoni Defense while

the 53rd-ranked Gonzales nipped Mari Arul S of India after 36 moves of an English Opening.

Dubai-based Filipino Tony Molina also won his match with the white pieces, trouncing FM Kasib Laith of Iraq in 66 moves of a Queens Gambit Declined and improving to 2.0 points, good for a share of 62nd to 97th places.

Lone Filipina entry Woman International Master Christine Rose Mariano ended her three-game losing run by drawing with Benjamin Hoareau of Seychelles in 77 moves of a French Defense.

In the fifth round late Friday, Gonzales, GM Mariano, Molina and WIM Mariano will be han-

dling black against 6th seed Super GM Ni Hua of China, 18th seed GM Maxim Sorokin of Russia, IM Fouad El Taher of Egypt and Erkin Gurbanzade of Azerbaijan, respectively.

"My pairing has been good thus far, Ni Hua would already be my third GM opponent," Gonzales, who is looking for his second GM result, told the INQUIRER via text message.

Georgian GM Giorgi Kacheishvili grabbed the solo lead after beating compatriot and erstwhile co-leader GM Merab Gagunashvili. Kacheishvili's fourth straight win gave him a perfect 4.0 points. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Torre joining Visayas tilt

GRANDMASTERS Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Nelson Mariano II and the country's top player International Master Mark Paragua have signified their intention to join the Visayas leg of the Filway/Time Life Open Active Chess Championship on April 23-24 at the SM City in Cebu City.

Also expected to participate are IMs Jayson Gonzales, Richard Bitoon and Barlo

Nadera, National Masters Mario Rebano, Elwin Retanal, Lorelei Mabagos Dicoico, Giovanni Tabada and Joyce Lenore Sangil Pascual and RP five-time executive champion Jenny Mayor.

The tournament, sponsored by Filway Marketing president/CEO Hector Tagaysay, is divided into the Open, Women's, Boys 12-under and Girls 12-under.

Sanctioned by the National

Chess Federation of the Philippines, the event offers P30,000 to the Open champion, P10,000 to the Women's champion and P4,000 each to the Boys 12-under and Girls 12-under champions.

The top senior, junior, non-master and unrated players will receive P1,000 each.

For inquiries, contact project director Willie Abalos at 0921-6219898. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Calapan hosting regional elims

THE REGIONAL qualification tournaments to select the members of the Philippine chess team to the 2005 Southeast Asian Games goes to Southern Luzon with the staging of the Region IV elimination for standard chess on April 12 to 14 at the Jose Leido Memorial National High School in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

The event, hosted and sponsored by the Sangguniang Kabataan Provincial Federation headed by SK president Kathleen Cuyas and the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro, is open to all untitled chess players. Call Willie Abalos 0921-6219898 or the SKF secretariat 0919-5892392 for details. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Go has high hopes for chess squad

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines is optimistic chess would contribute significantly in the country's bid for the Manila Southeast Asian Games overall championship.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok predicted that the star-studded national team would deliver as it did in Vietnam in the biennial meet which starts late November.

Go, who is also appointed chair of the SEA Games sports and rules committee tasked to determine and recommend possible additions to the number of events in the calendar, recently met with Fide secretary general Ignatius Leong of Singapore and Asian Zone 3.2 head Dang Tat Thang of Vietnam. They discussed the possible inclusion of rapid and blitz events in the chess program.

Hernandez, 64

FRANK Relova Hernandez, uncle of Daily Tribune assistant sports editor Jon Hernandez III, died of complications due to a stroke last April 7. He was 64. Hernandez, served as Editor in Chief of the National Irrigation Administration magazine. He is survived by brothers Rex, Roger, Jun and sister Marissa, wife Priscilla, children Corinne, Lorelie, Edwin, Franklin and Abigail and grandchildren Lorena, Jay o, Hannah, Mark and Amber. His remains lie in state at his residence at Km 76 Barangay Banca-Banca in Victoria, Laguna near Slide and Dive Resort. Interment will be on Wednesday, at the Pila Cemetery.



FREEMAN shows a participant the proper moves.

Missing the NBA proved a blessing for Freeman

By Jasmine W. Payo

LIFE'S harsh reality came early for Georgetown University's three-time captain Courtland Freeman.

Plagued by injuries—from his fingers to his back to his foot—in his five-year stint in Division 1 NCAA, the 6-foot-9 American forward knew he had a slim-to-nil chance of making it to the NBA.

So after graduating from college in May 2004, Freeman was more than just accommodating when another basketball opportunity came knocking. The US State Department tapped Freeman and his former Georgetown teammate, Omari Faulkner, to serve as the first cultural envoys for sports in its Culture Connect program.

"I couldn't pass it up," said Freeman, who arrived here on

April 3 for a seven-day visit that included stops in Manila, Davao and Cebu. "We use basketball as a tool to develop friendships, meet people and experience the culture."

Unlike in the NBA, where his travels would have been limited to US and Canadian cities, Freeman's new basketball job has taken him to 32 countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Eastern Europe, North and West Africa and Asia to teach kids basic basketball drills.

And like most of his foreign visits, the Philippines proved to be an interesting surprise. "I've heard a lot of stories how basketball here is big, but I never realized that it would even be bigger than I thought," he said. "I went to a PBA game, a barangay game. I saw various levels of basketball here and it's really exciting."

THE PHILIPPINE Football Fiesta, a youth festival/tournament organized by the Philippine Football Federation, kicks off today in Iloilo.

Scheduled to run up to Wednesday, the 'Fiesta' will be held at the Philippine National Training Center in Barotac Nuevo and at the Barotac Nuevo football plaza.

This event will feature small-sided games in the fol-

lowing age group bracket in both boys and girls division: 6-8 years old, 9-10, 11-12, Under-15 and Under-17.

Cyril Dofitas, PFF's tournament commissioner for the event, said yesterday that teams from all over the country were making their way into the province.

Thus far, participating teams include Southridge, Woodrose, Springdale, Pabol FC (Cebu), Bago City FC, Sta Barbara FC, Lapaz FC, Jaro

Junior badminton meet resumes

DOUBLES action highlights the resumption of the JVC Badminton Open Juniors Championships at SM Fairview today with Danica Bolos and partner Malvine Anne Alcala clashing with the Alexandra Villarin-Pia Fabros pair in the first of eight matches slated in the round of 16.

Balanga Badminton Center's May Pamorada and Di- anne Reina slug it out with Ma. Lourdes Gaspar and Keesha-lane Theodosia of M.H. Del Pilar, while the Mariel Mercado- Ma. Camille Chu tandem of Team SportsHub faces the pair

of Zairee Mutia and Kiara Castelo of LMHMC.

Hostilities start at 11 a.m. The event, which also serves as part of the ongoing SM summer sports tour, kicked off last week at SM North Edsa with the country's top junior players Peter Magnaye and Randolph Balatbat and Bianca Legaspi and Gelita Castillo posting victories in the boys and girls singles.

Legaspi, playing out of Asuncion Badminton Center, is teaming up with Abigail Garcia of La Salle-Zobel as they take on Michelle Cruz and

Daniella Gamboa in the featured match in the lower bracket.

For details, log on to www.jvcbadminton.com.

Meanwhile, deadline for submission of entries for the Pampanga and Cebu legs of the JVC badminton regional tournament is on April 15. The Pampanga event is set April 18-22 while Cebu will host the second leg on April 25-29.

For details, contact (045) 8609999/ 0918-3902134/ 0917-8120194 (for Pampanga leg) and (032) 2333338/ (032) 2344526 (for Cebu).

INTRODUCING

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Viewers celebrate resurgence of animated films

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME five years ago, two heretofore neglected film types, musicals and animated features, staged a comeback. How have they been doing since then? While "Moulin Rouge" has had follow-ups like "Chicago" and "Phantom of the Opera," it's the field of animated full-length movies that has been enjoying a truly significant resurgence.

The latest animated hit showing in town is "Robots." Soon, "Ice Age 2" will start its local run. In fact, its trailer is already being shown in theaters.

Imaginative romp

The first "Ice Age" movie was an exhilarating, imaginative romp, so fans of animated features expect its sequel to be similarly inventive and delightful. The film's trailer encourages this hope with its breezy, madcap visualization.

Next on the cartoon horizon is "Pooh's Heffalump Movie," Disney's latest animated treat that brings Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Rabbit, Roo, Piglet and Eeyore back together again.

This time, they learn an important lesson about accepting that people are different, and thus arrive at a genuine understanding of true friendship.

The third original Pooh feature created for the big screen, "Heffalump" follows in the footsteps of 2001's "The Tigger Movie" and 2003's "Piglet's Big Movie." These films' stories have been inspired by A.A. Milne's original series of children's books about Winnie the Pooh, which have sold 50 million copies worldwide, and have been translated into more than 30 languages.



"JUSTICE LEAGUE UNITES." Superhero series on television.

Disney's new Pooh movie introduces a new character in the person of Lumpy the Heffalump, a sweet, innocent, roly-poly bundle of energy with a giggle that's as infectious as his playful spirit.

Ironically, the creature is initially dreaded by many (like Shrek, the ogre, was, before he revealed what a misunderstood creature he was).

Awakened by a rumbling that could only be made by the much-feared Heffalump monsters, Winnie the Pooh and friends set forth to catch the dreaded creature. Thought to be too young to join such a dangerous expedition, little Roo opts to search on his own—with far greater success than his friends.

Ominous creatures

After meeting the young and playful Lumpy, Roo quickly discovers that Heffalumps are nothing like the ominous creatures of the horrifying stories he's been told. In fact, Lumpy is equally afraid of Roo's silly pals!

Roo and Lumpy then strike up a great



friendship, and work together to dispel the unfounded fears of their respective friends and families.

Still on the animation front, but on TV this time, Studio 23 launched its new primetime cartoon bloc last Friday, April 1, with the new animated series, "The Batman," at 6 p.m., and "Justice League Unites," a continuation of the "Justice League" series at 6:30 p.m.

Studio 23's "The Batman" features a younger hero, who's just finding his way as the masked defender of Gotham City, while maintaining his public persona as billionaire bachelor Bruce Wayne.

He employs a new arsenal of experimental Bat-gadgets and amped-up Batmobile to fight foes like The Joker, Penguin, Riddler, Mr. Freeze and Man-Bat.

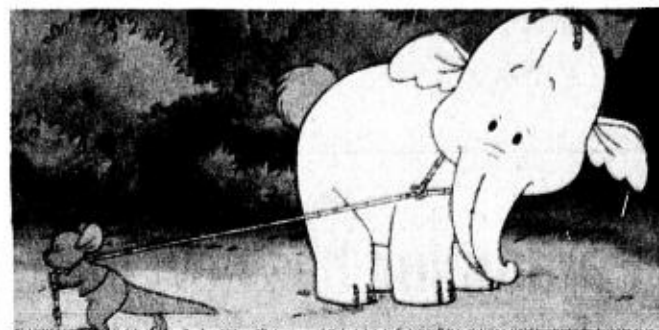
In "Justice League Unlimited," the superheroes include Superman, Wonder Woman, Green Arrow, Elongated Man, Mister Miracle, Booster Gold and Green Lantern.

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"ICE AGE 2" (LEFT CARTOON) AND "POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE" (TOP). Upcoming features to grace the big screen.

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Brian McKnight vamps on love, longevity and lust

NEW YORK—Brian McKnight has managed to do something unheard of in today's MTV-obsessed, cookie-cutter music world.

Recently, his eighth album, "Gemini," debuted at No. 2 on the R&B charts and sold more than 100,000 copies its first week—without the cushion of a music video.

Already producing two silky-smooth hits, "Every Time You Go Away" and the Grammy-nominated "What We Do Here," McKnight has come back strong—and a little randy—after a two-year hiatus.

"Gemini" is a mix of elegant soul and, at times, downright nasty lyrics, reconciling the duality between McKnight's God-fearing and freshly-divorced bachelor-on-the-rebound selves.

16 million albums

Now 35, with more than 16 million albums sold in his decade-plus career, McKnight vamps on love, longevity and lust.

Are the songs on this album leaning more toward the heart or the groin?

It's equal parts of both because as a man, you try your best not to have your heart be involved because you're a man, and you're run by your libido. But, as you get older, you realize that there has to be more to life than your libido!

Solo career

When you started your solo career, you were open about being a family man. But, as your albums progressed, the playboy in you was in the foreground.

What I wanted to do was to have acceptance on a musical level first. If I had given everything in the beginning, nine records later, I'd have nowhere to go.

So, it wasn't a conscious decision, but it was the way it had to be, because now, there's still a true story to tell.

What do you attribute your professional longevity to?

One thing that people expect from me is the craftsmanship of a good song. At the end of the day, that's all that matters. If you rely on all of that other stuff, what will happen when the video isn't that good?



MCKNIGHT. His latest album, "Gemini," debuted at No. 2.

Was Sisco's "Thong Song" well-crafted? It was ubiquitous at one point.

It was a good song because it did what it was supposed to do—it made people get up and dance.

So, what happened to him?

With instant gratification, if you don't have any substance to back it up, you eventually fall by the wayside. If you're only thinking of what's happening right now, you're going to miss at some point.

I try to write songs that will be able to get play 10 years from now. And, if it takes a longer time to get there, then that's a reward for me, instead of having a song that's No. 1 right now that radio won't play next summer.

Professional basketball

In the two-year span between albums, you spent some time playing professional basketball.

I played in Mexico and in China. I've always done that, but I never publicized it, and when people started finding that out, they wanted to talk to me about it. I don't bring my musical thing to the basketball court.

You mean you haven't belted out the "Star Spangled Banner," then dunked on somebody?

I don't do that. Every summer in LA, I still play in the pro leagues.

You also went through a divorce in between albums. How has that impacted your music?

I got divorced three years ago. All you have to do is take a listen to the album, and you'll hear how it impacted on me. My album isn't only about one thing—it has to deal with

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3rd Batch : April 11 to April 15
4th Batch : April 18 to April 22
5th Batch : April 25 to April 29
6th Batch : May 2 to May 6
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Theater, poetry honed Pope John Paul II's communication skills

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME people believe that the recently deceased Pope John Paul II could be hailed as the greatest Roman Catholic pontiff of all time. That's saying a lot! Whether you concur with that view or not, it's likely that you'll agree that "JP2" was an exceptional pope, and a hard act to follow.

Unique

What made him so unique, focused and prodigiously effective? While there are those who dismiss him as an "out-of-touch" conservative, many more see him as a pontiff precisely right for modern times, thanks to his unusual combination



POPE JOHN PAUL II. Tough act to follow.

of deep spirituality and great communication skills.

His spirituality was the result of his religious upbringing, and his being orphaned of his mother at an early age. Only years later, he lost his beloved brother and father in turn, so he eventually had to face life pretty much alone.

This infused him with a deep sadness that would make others become introverted. In his case, however, it made him more empathetic to the feelings of others, and this accounts substantially for his unusually charismatic hold on the people he met.

This sensitivity also propelled him to the arts, specifically to poetry and theater, and this in turn led to the development of his communication skills, which he imaginatively employed to great effect to exponentially spread the word of Christ throughout the world during his long pontificate.

It is these great communication skills that made Pope John Paul II truly a pontiff for modern times.

Having been an actor and director, he knew how to use theater and media, not just to communicate the messages he wanted to disseminate worldwide, but also to vivify those messages, to make them come alive in his viewers and listeners' sensibilities, and thus affect them to the very core of their being.

Passion

Young Karol Wojtyla discovered the passion and power of the theater when he was only 14 years old. A schoolmate notes: "It struck him like a thunderbolt, it was like he had come face-to-face with his destiny. His life took a new turn, and he devoted every free minute to the theater."

He began to read plays, and portrayed lead parts in school productions. He was drawn to the works of Polish playwrights who upheld freedom, human rights and love for their subjugated homeland, an early predilection that would bear fruit in some of the key causes he would espouse as pope.

At 15, he also became president of the Marian Sodality, thus fusing early on his interests in faith and the arts, two complementary strengths that, decades later, would make his pontificate uniquely persuasive and stirring.

Predecessors

Starting with his very first official address as pontiff, Pope John Paul II was markedly different in his use of media compared to his predecessors.

An observer noted: "He spoke with a professional's intonation, measuring the pauses, breaking off for moments of applause. In the hearts of his audience, the pontiff's words flashed like an electric charge. Here was a pope, the audience sensed, who was ready to conquer the world."

With his unique combination of spirituality and astute use of theater and media, Pope John Paul II did just that—for Christ!

Animax

From page A2-6

April 11 at 6 a.m., "City by the Sea." 12:15 p.m., "The Emperor's Club." April 12 at 10:50 p.m., "White Oleander." April 14 at 2 p.m., "Anger Management." 5:20 p.m., "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

On Cinemax, April 9 at 6 a.m., "Jason and the Argonauts." 9 p.m., "Ghost." 2:15 a.m., "Perdita Durango." April 10 at 10:45 a.m., "Music from Another Room." April 11 at 7:30 a.m., "The 7th Voyage of Sinbad." 2:15 a.m., "Pal Joey." April 12 at 6 a.m., "Helen of Troy." April 13 at 9 p.m., "Patriot Games."

'SAHARA'

Paramount has new franchise after Indiana Jones & Tomb Raider

Franchise:

One of Paramount's most lucrative film franchises is *Indiana Jones*, following the adventures of a savvy archaeologist/adventurer as his exploits take him around the globe, throw him against the most dastardly of villains, and uncover some of the world's great unsolved mysteries. *Indiana Jones* belongs to a subgenre of "pulp fiction" that has roots as far back as the mid-19th century.

Now Paramount hopes to find gold again with the *Dirk Pitt* series. The film brings the 'Indiana Jones' concept to the present, featuring a hero to rival James Bond.

Paramount already went back to the adventurer well with the movie version of *Tomb Raider* (also sparking a new franchise), and now, has another one in the *Dirk Pitt* series, starting with *Sahara*. Paramount has a strong array of franchises to work with, in a film industry increasingly driven by them.

Based Upon

Sahara is based on the bestselling novel by Clive Cussler, which is the 11th entry in his *Dirk Pitt* series. Cussler's action-packed novels are custom-made for film and Paramount has



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY as Dirk Pitt in the \$125M summer's mega budgeted action/adventure film 'SAHARA'

the rights to the other *Dirk Pitt* novels, and have plans to make this the first of a franchise. Cussler has been quoted as saying he hopes *Inca Gold* is one of the next books adapted.

About the Story

"1996, Egypt. Searching for a treasure on the Nile, *Dirk Pitt* thwarts the attempted assassination of a beautiful U.N. scientist investigating a disease that is driving thousands of North Africans into madness, cannibalism, and death. The suspected cause of the raging epidemic is vast, unprecedented pollution that threatens to extinguish all life in the world's seas. Racing to save the world from environmental catastrophe, Pitt and his team, equipped

with an extraordinary, state-of-the-art yacht, run a gauntlet between a billionaire industrialist and a bloodthirsty West African tyrant. In the scorching desert, Pitt finds a gold mine manned by slaves and uncovers the truth behind two enduring mysteries—the fate of a Civil War ironclad and its secret connection with Lincoln's assassination, and the last flight of a long-lost female pilot.... Now, amidst the blazing, shifting sands of the Sahara, *Dirk Pitt* will make a desperate stand—in a battle the world cannot afford to lose!"

Filmed at a cost of over \$125M, *Sahara* is the first of the summer's mega budgeted popcorn flicks from Hollywood.

ADVT.

Leisure Guide

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MISS CONGENIALITY 2 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	CLOSER 12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 / 6:55 / 9:05
THE PACIFIER 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	BE COOL 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
BOOGEYMAN 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00	HITCH 1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
SAHARA 12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 / 6:55 / 9:05	

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 THE PACIFIER 11:50 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	4 HIDE & SEEK 11:40 / 1:50 / 4:00 / 6:10 / 8:20
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 11:55 / 2:40 / 5:25 / 8:10	5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
3 SAHARA 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE Apr. 10
4:15pm Alaska vs. FedEx / 6:35pm San Miguel vs. Ginebra

2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE Apr. 13
4:45pm Purefoods vs. Sta. Lucia / 7:35pm Ginebra vs. Shell

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NEW STORES	Mango and Figaro, both at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES	Shanice Michaels on April 9 & Buhay featuring Tots Tolentino on April 10 at The Pavilion of Gateway Mall

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1 (noon)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	GP
2 (noon)	CLOSER	R13
3 (noon)	THE PACIFIER	GP
4 (noon)	SAHARA	
5 (noon)	HIDE AND SEEK	PG13

PREVIEW

Cinema 2000
Walmart Center, Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Antonio Armatz Pao del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816-4214 / 816-4216

1	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
2	PACIFIER
3	CLOSER
4	HIDE AND SEEK

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetan Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733-4238

1 (noon)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833-3290 / 833-3274

1	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
2	CLOSER
3	PACIFIER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724-4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	GALING GALING MO BABES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	ALONE IN THE DARK
5	PACIFIER

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850-4285

1	PACIFIER
2	GAMITAN
3	RENOVATION
4	RENOVATION
5 (noon)	ALONE IN THE DARK
6	CLOSER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237-7007

1 (noon)	MVP
2	RENTAL RESERVATION

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1 (noon)	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
2 (noon)	PACIFIER
3 (noon)	MISS CONGENIALITY 2
4 (noon)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
5 (noon)	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
6 (noon)	THE PACIFIER
7 (noon)	HIDE AND SEEK
8 (noon)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
9 (noon)	CLOSER
10 (noon)	BE COOL

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1	HUNTED OFFICE
2	SEX & ZEN-2
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4	RESERVED

Universal
(Mantila) tel 733-2470

1	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
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Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 to 03

1 (noon)	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2	CURSED
3 (noon)	CONFIDENCE
4	HOSTAGE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	CONFIDENCE
2	HOSTAGE
3 (noon)	CURSED
4 (noon)	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (045) 515-8489

1	ROBOTS
2	HITCH
3 (noon)	MILLION DOLLAR BABYS
4 (noon)	FIVE CHILDREN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237-7007

1	ROBOTS
2	HITCH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 887-6963 or 72

1 (noon)	PACIFIER
2 (noon)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 (noon)	SAHARA
4 (noon)	HIDE AND SEEK

Cinema 2000
Walmart (Calamba) tel (049) 545-7383

1	IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 (noon)	BE COOL
3 (noon)	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
4	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Cinema 2000
Pavilion Mall (Binang) tel (049) 411-1146

1	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2 (noon)	SAHARA (SIMUL US)
3 (noon)	AG-VISIBLE SECRET
4	BE COOL

Cinema 2000
Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568-6771

1	ROBOTS
2	HITCH
3 (noon)	MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Cinema 2000
Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982-1729

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	CURSED
3 (noon)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 (noon)	HITCH

Cinema 2000
Walmart (Pilar) tel (044) 795-3320

1	MISS CONGENIALITY
2	ROBOTS
3 (noon)	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850-1276

1 (noon)	WAR EAGLES
2	HUWAD NA HAYOP
3	TETENG BALIW
4 (noon)	CRACKER JACK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545-7202

1 (noon)	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2	IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (noon)	BE COOL
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5	SAHARA (SIMUL US)

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463-3283

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	WHOLE TEN YARD
3 (noon)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 (noon)	CURSED

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981-0790

1	MISS CONGENIALITY
2	CURSED
3	CONFIDENCE
4	HOSTAGE

Berna Cinema
(Baclaram) tel 879-2030 / 879-2029

1	CHAIN OF COMMAND
2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE

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Dial 101-123

Supah dupah hip-hop sensation Ja Rule is coming to our shores this month and he's bringing down the Big Dome. Catch Ja Rule crunk it at the Araneta Coliseum on April 23, 2005.

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Live chat with Ja Rule

Keep it locked in to PLDT myMusic and myPad on April 22 for a spankin' chat session with The Rule. myMusic subscribers can talk with Ja Rule on the phone while myPad subscribers can chat with him online. You can even watch him answer all your questions through webcam by just logging on to www.pldtmypad.com.

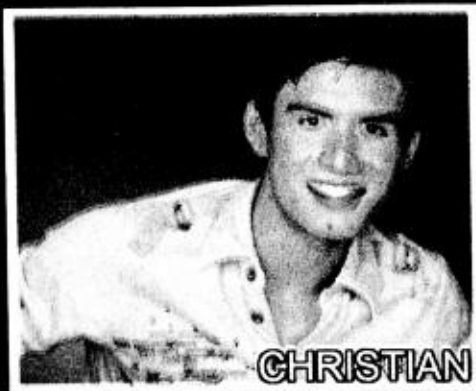
Share Ja Rule

Finally, Ja Rule's gritty rap riffs and hip-hop crooning is just a PLDT landline away. Subscribe to myMusic now so you can send out Ja Rule's hit songs to your friends' PLDT landline anywhere nationwide or to their Smart or Talk 'n Text cellphone for only P8 per send.

But that's not all because he'll also be turning up the volume with pop balladeer Christian Bautista, RnB princess Kyla and soul siren Nina with your subscription to myMusic.



Get a hold of Kyla, Nina and Christian Bautista's profile, interviews, song snippets and watch out for their upcoming live chat schedules via PLDT myMusic and myPad. Tune in to Wave 89.1 to catch their on-air interviews. In between interviews, you can go on live chat and webcam sessions with them through PLDT myPad.

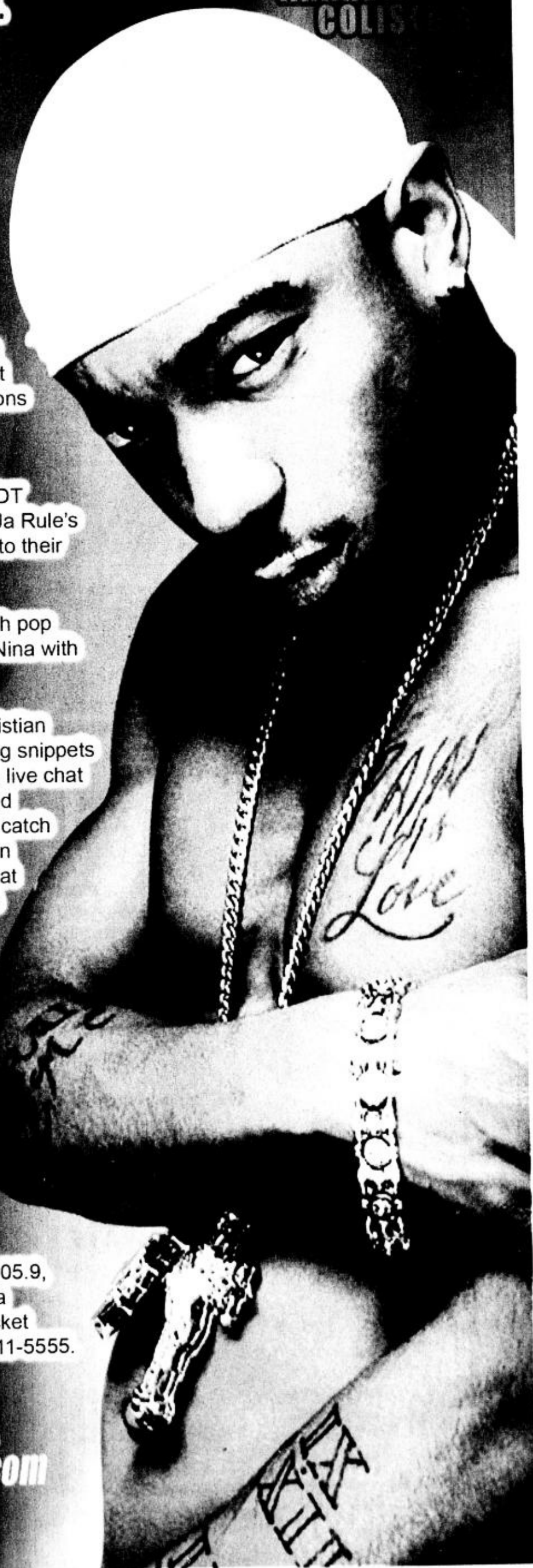


So go ahead. Call 171 or log on to www.pldtmypad.com to get unlimited access to your kind of music. Because if you love music, you'll definitely love PLDT myMusic.



Ja Rule Live in Manila is brought to you by PLDT myPad, PLDT Vibe, Smart Buddy, Addict Mobile, MTV, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, Blazing 105.9, Nescafe and Eventscape Manila Production. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

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PLDT myMUSIC or log on to
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MTRCB RATING: R 13

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Are you game?

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1. THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
2. HIDE AND SEEK
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

sm megamall cinema 1

BE COOL
11:35, 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35, 11:35

sm cebu cinema 1

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

sm manila cinema 6

BE COOL
10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30

METRO MANILA

sm megamall

- BE COOL
- SAHARA
- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- HIDE AND SEEK
- CLOSER
- HOSTAGE
- BOOGEYMAN
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- THE PACIFIER
- RESERVED
- RESERVED

sm city fairview

- BOOGEYMAN
- HOSTAGE
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2
- THE PACIFIER
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- HIDE AND SEEK
- CLOSER
- ROBOTS
- CLOSER
- SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
- BE COOL
- ALONE IN THE DARK

sm city north edsa

- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- SAHARA
- CLOSER
- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- HIDE AND SEEK
- SAHARA

sm city manila

- CLOSER
- SAHARA
- BOOGEYMAN
- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- THE PACIFIER
- BE COOL
- HOSTAGE
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
- ALONE IN THE DARK
- HIDE AND SEEK

sm city bicutan

- SAHARA
- THE PACIFIER
- HIDE AND SEEK
- CLOSER

sm city sta. mesa

- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- CLOSER
- SAHARA
- BOOGEYMAN
- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- HIDE AND SEEK
- THE PACIFIER
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2

sm city southmall

- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- CLOSER
- RESERVED
- LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
- BOOGEYMAN
- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- SAHARA
- THE PACIFIER
- HIDE AND SEEK

sm cinema tutuban

- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- RESERVED

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- THE PACIFIER
- HIDE AND SEEK
- SAHARA
- CLOSER

LUZON

sm city pampanga

- HOSTAGE
- ALONE IN THE DARK
- SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
- HITCH
- CURSED
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city baguio

- THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
- MILLION DOLLAR BABY
- RAY
- HOSTAGE

sm city batangas

- CONFIDENCE
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2
- HOSTAGE
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2

sm city dasmarinas

- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- CLOSER
- THE PACIFIER
- ALONE IN THE DARK

sm city lucena

- MILLION DOLLAR BABY
- HITCH
- BUNSHINSHABA
- RACING STRIPES

sm city bacoar

- ALONE IN THE DARK
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2
- SAHARA
- HIDE AND SEEK
- THE PACIFIER
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- CLOSER
- SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD

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- THE PACIFIER
- MS. CONGENIALITY 2
- ALONE IN THE DARK
- HOSTAGE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu

- ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
- RACING STRIPES
- RESERVED
- RESERVED
- CONFIDENCE
- HITCH
- HOSTAGE
- SAHARA

sm city iloilo

- HITCH
- RESERVED
- SON OF THE MASK 2
- BAHAY NI LOLA 2
- HOSTAGE
- THE FINAL CUT
- RESERVED
- CURSED

sm city davao

- SAHARA
- ROBOTS
- SON OF THE MASK 2
- RAY
- HITCH
- THE FINAL CUT

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- MILLION DOLLAR BABY
- HITCH
- THE FINAL CUT
- ROBOTS

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Classic melodies in Sixpence's 'best of' collection



By Noelani Torre

FOR those who only know Sixpence None the Richer for "Kiss Me" and "There She Goes," the idea of the band's releasing a "best of" collection may leave them a bit bewildered.

The Christian pop group has a great deal of material from a 10-year career, and though not all of the songs in this compilation will be familiar, neither are they album-padding fare. There is a Nippongo-fied version of "Kiss Me" that might qualify as such, but it's only tacked on at the end of a pretty satisfying hour's worth of brightly shining pop.

Sixpence is essentially vocalist Leigh Nash and guitarist/songwriter Matt Slocum, with various bassists and drummers contributing when needed. Both natives of Texas, the two mainstays first met at a church retreat in the early '90s and the rest, as they say, is history.

Theologian

As for the band's name, it was lifted from famed theologian C.S. Lewis' book, "Mere Christianity." Nash elaborated on it in "Letterman": "A little boy asks his father if he can get a sixpence—a very small amount of English currency—to get a gift for his father. The father gladly accepts the gift and he's happy with it, but he also realizes that he's not any richer for the transaction. C.S. Lewis compared that to his belief that God has given him—and us—the gifts that we possess, and to serve him the way we should, we should do it humbly... realizing how we got the gift in the first place."

With that bit of enlightened thinking to fuel their ambitions, the band first scored big in 1997 when "Kiss Me" (from their third, self-titled album) became an unexpected hit. The song—which hit No. 1 in several countries, bagged a Grammy nomination, and has been played at a royal wedding—has become ubiquitous since then, catapulting Sixpence into the spotlight, something they'd never really aspired for. The sweet, lighter-than-air song oozes with the charm that has made the band popular with a more mainstream audience.

19-track CD

"Kiss Me" is the first (and last) track in "The Best of Sixpence None the Richer" (Squint/Warner Music), a 19-track CD that includes songs culled from their albums, "The Fatherless and the Widow," "This Beautiful Mess," "Exodus," "Sixpence None the Richer," "Streams," "Roaring Lambs," and "Divine Discontent."

Also included are covers: Abba's "Dancing Queen" (from the soundtrack of "Dick"), Crowded House's "Don't Dream It's Over," The La's "There She Goes," Sam Phillips' "I Need Love" (from the soundtrack of "Here on Earth"), and Brian Wilson's "I Just Wasn't Made For These Times."

Sentiments

The original material here is classic Sixpence—clean and catchy melodies coupled with Nash's bright yet quiet vocals. Their music conjures up cheery sunshine-and-cookies visions, but they don't stuff their sentiments down your throat, so nothing grates.

Some of the best tracks are the covers, like their airy but engaging rendition of the classic, "Don't Dream It's Over."

All in all, this "best of" collection is a good and comprehensive introduction to the mainstream and contemporary Christian brands of the pleasant and sincere music of Sixpence None the Richer.

Brian . . . From page A2-1

all of my emotions. There are happy times, there are times when I just wanted some sex.

You named your album after your complex astrological sign. Do you believe in the vibrations of the planets?

No, I don't. I'm a Christian. I believe that God guides my path. If I believe that there's any other force that controls that, then everything I learned growing up is false. It's all or nothing.

Astrology

But didn't a Higher Being create everything around us, including other planets, even tools that help us understand our universe—such as astrology?

Is there anything in the Bible that would suggest to you that there were astrological signs at that point? I can tell you right now that there's not.

Would you consider yourself more religious or spiritual?

I'm more of a spiritual person because I realize that all denominations and religions are man-made.

Many R&B and neo-soul singers are rooted in church, praising God at every chance. And yet, they're all about sex in their music. How do you reconcile that?

If you look at the story of David, people mistake the fact that those characters are humans, and we all have desires, whether they're sinful or not. People get caught up in the fact that if you're a Christian, you can't have lustful thoughts. Sure you can—and David wrote songs about that.

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1	PACIFIER 10:50, 1:15, 3:30 GP	CLOSER 8:00, 8:25, 10:50 R-13
2	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS THE MOVIE 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP	
3	SAHARA 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:05 PG-13	
4	HIDE AND SEEK 10:35, 1:05, 4:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13	

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 898-1440-41

CLOSER R13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	SPONGEBOB SQUARE PANTS MOVIE GP 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE GP 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
HIDE AND SEEK PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	THE PACIFIER GP 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:45, 10:15	SAHARA 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20

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- Sahara
- Pacifier

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- Gamitan
- Renovation
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1	CLOSER 11:10, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 R13	2	HIDE AND SEEK 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 P13
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APRIL 9, 2005 TROY MCHTERO 8:30PM
APRIL 26, 2005 "LOVE IN APRIL" PILITA CORRALES 7:30PM
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SHANG CINEPLEX

1	THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MTRCB: GP 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3	THE PACIFIER MTRCB: GP 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
2	CLOSER MTRCB: R-13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	4	SAHARA MTRCB: PG-13 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE **HIDE AND SEEK**
MTRCB: PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 BE COOL • THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 11:00 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	7 ASTERIX AND OBELIX 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40
3 HIDE AND SEEK 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	8 BOOGEYMAN 1:10 3:25 5:40 7:55 10:00
4 CLOSER 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	9 HITCH 12:00 2:35 5:10 7:45 10:00
5 THE PACIFIER 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 SAHARA

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CLOSER 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	5 THE PACIFIER 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 SAHARA	6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 10:20 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00	7 HIDE AND SEEK 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
4 BOOGEYMAN 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BOOGEYMAN 11:55 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15	5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50 10:30
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10	6 CLOSER 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
3 CONSTANTINE 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	7 THE PACIFIER 10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30
4 SAHARA	8 HIDE AND SEEK 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 CLOSER 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	5 BE COOL 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
2 BOOGEYMAN 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25	6 SAHARA
3 HIDE AND SEEK 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25	7 RESERVE
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 SAHARA	3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 HIDE AND SEEK	4 CLOSER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 SON OF THE MASK 2	1 THE PACIFIER
2 ALONE IN THE DARK	2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	3 SAHARA
4 ROOM SERVICE	4 CLOSER

CAINTA 240-4661

1 THE PACIFIER	2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAHARA	4 CLOSER



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1 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD	1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 SAHARA	2 CONFIDENCE
3 BE COOL	3 NANG NAK
4 ROBOTS	4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 HOSTAGE	5 CURSED

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1 CLOSER	1 CURSED
2 ALONE IN THE DARK	2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 THE PACIFIER	3 CONFIDENCE
4 5 CHILDREN AND IT	4 HOSTAGE
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2	

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1 HIDE AND SEEK	1 HAROLD AND KUMAR
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2	2 NANG NAK
3 ALONE IN THE DARK	3 HOSTAGE
4 THE PACIFIER	4 ALONE IN THE DARK
5 CLOSER	5 CURSED
6 SAHARA	6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

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1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	1 HOSTAGE
2 HOSTAGE	2 THE FINAL CUT
3 HITCH	3 CURSED
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2	4 HITCH
5 NANG NAK	5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 SON OF THE MASK 2	6 MILLION DOLLAR BABY



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G1

1 THE PACIFIER	2 HIDE & SEEK	3 SAHARA	4 CLOSER
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G4

1 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	2 THE PACIFIER	3 THE CLOSER GUARANTEED SEAT
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GB1

1 SAHARA	2 HIDE & SEEK
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GB3

1 TH	CLOSER	2 TH	HIDE & SEEK
	GUARANTEED SEATS		GUARANTEED SEATS

ATC

1	HIDE & SEEK	2	CLOSER
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ACC

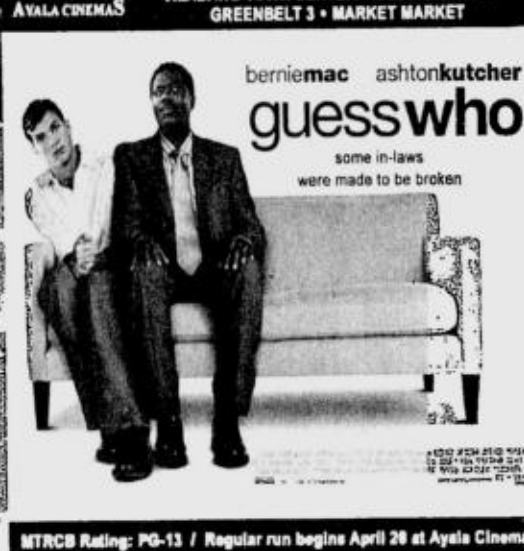
1 SPANGLISH	2 CONFIDENCE	3 RACING STRIPES	4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
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MTRCB Rating: PG-13 / Regular run begins April 20 at Ayala Cinemas

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Boso is the first digital film by Digital Vito and directed by award-winning director Jon Red

Synopsis:
"Boso", shot on a digital video, is a sexy dark comedy about Jake, caretaker of a boarding house by day and a peeping-Tom by night. In a place filled with twisted characters and absurd lives, he overuses each tenant's secret, daily routines and private world. Jake continues "playing God" until he meets and falls for Cecilia, a woman who makes him realize the essence of beauty - unseen by the eyes. Later, a tragic accident leads to an unexpected twist and dramatic confrontation.

APRIL 13-19



MTRCB Rating: R-18
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call
CINEMA ACCESS: 635-9555 or visit us:
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com



ONGOING until May 5 is Animax's Asian Storyboard Competition, designed for the Quu & Tee anime series. Contestants have to design a storyboard involving the two animated characters.

MONTAGE

The winner from each country will have his or her storyboard produced into animated vignettes from one to two minutes in length by Animax Asia and Singapore's Media Development Authority.

The final production will be telecast regionally. The winner will win two plane tickets to Tokyo, where he will visit some animation museums. For details, access www.animax-asia.com and www.animax-hk.com.



ANIME series launches Asia-wide contest.

'Boso'

Jon Red's digital feature, "Boso," will be shown at Robinson's Galleria on April 15. The film is about a landlord (Jeffrey Quizon) who plays God as he peeps into the lives of his tenants. His comeuppance comes when he goes beyond peeping and interferes in the affairs of a newlywed couple. Stars in-

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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JOEL TORRE

The actor as student of life

By Ronald G. Mangubat

THERE is something very "un-show biz-y" about Joel Torre. He dresses simply, behaves just like your ordinary next-door neighbor, and doesn't intimidate. For someone who has acted in more than 70 films, won a dozen acting awards and become a common fixture on TV soaps, the 43-year-old actor remains a simple and down-to-earth person in the eyes of his family, peers and fans.

"I've always been determined not to get swallowed up by the star system," he discloses. "The glamour of show biz, that's just the trimming. Ever since, I've wanted to become a character actor and play a variety of roles."

Member

Torre's passion for acting started at seven years old, when he was a member of a community theater group in Bacolod. Long before Peque Gallaga discovered him for "Oro, Plata, Mata," he played a small role in Lino Brocka's "Gumising Ka, Maruja," which was shot in 1978 in Bacolod.

At an early age, Torre realized that more than fame, fortune and glamour, acting is hard work, commitment and dedication, and this has been his motto whenever he attacks any role assigned to him. Last seen in "Panaghyo sa Suba," Torre has done bit roles in three new films, two of which are Cinemalaya festival entries—Siegfried Barros Sanchez' "Laspongols" and Clodualdo del Mundo's "Pepot Artista." He will also be seen in Unitel's "Pinoy Blonde," Gallaga's comeback movie.

Eatery

In between shooting breaks, Torre also manages an eatery called "JT Manukan Grille" in Quezon City, a two-year-old business venture that has unexpectedly become a hit.

Q and A:

What was the last play you acted in?

Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters," in New York. It was very successful. The Village Voice and the New York Times raved about the play. I played Senator Aguila, *parang* Ninoy character.

What was it like, acting in New York?

Fantastic! When we went to bars and we'd meet waiters who were also actors, and they found out that I was acting in a play, *iba agad ang tingin nila sa amin*. Big deal sa kanila *yun*.

How do you prepare yourself for a role?

The important thing is to relax, there are exercises for this. Then, I study the character and put myself in the situation of the person I'm playing.

Other roles

Any other roles that you want to portray?

I want to do Juan Luna—that would be interesting. I also want to play a transsexual.

What attracts you to a role?

The complexity of the character, and the director's vision. I like working with director-friends.

Among the movies you've made, which are your favorites?

"Oro, Plata, Mata," "Bayaning Third World," "Unfaithful Wife," "Batang West Side," "Karnal."

You've been known to be very supportive of new filmmakers...

Yes. I can work with them for free. *Pinapatalan ko nga ang mga film students*, just to give them support. *Basta maganda yung project, okay ako*.

Directing

Do you also dream of directing?

Yes. I've directed plays and shows on TV. *Film na lang ang kulang*.

What kind of film do you want to direct?

I have a great story for a war movie. Because my dad is a war veteran, I want to do his story. I want to do a film about drugs. *Kasi dito, ang films about drugs, stereotypical*. I want to do *yung struggle ng addict*.

What is it about acting that gives you a high?

The performance itself, the unpredictability of it, and yet, there's a "scientific" approach to it. Being an actor, people don't realize that you're studying all the time. You wake up and ask yourself, how do I feel? You observe. You ask questions. You're studying yourself at the same time, and you become an ideal human being. You're studying life without people noticing it!



TORRE. Acting requires hard work, commitment and dedication.

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Thespian treats from Roberts, De Niro and Travolta

By Rito P. Asilo

"Closer"

D: Mike Nichols
S: Jude Law, Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Natalie Portman

MIKE Nichols' latest big-screen triumph is not for the sexually and emotionally squeamish. After his triumphant adaptation of Tony Kushner's "Angels in America," the acclaimed director takes on another controversial script from the legitimate stage, and displays his daring take on the mysteries of sex, love, abandonment and fidelity.

Writer Dan (Jude Law) hooks up with exotic dancer Alice (Natalie Portman) after he meets her in an accident. To promote his novel, he gets photographed by Anna (Julia Roberts), who meets dermatologist Larry (Clive Owen) through an Internet prank staged by Dan. Larry marries Anna, who's besotted with the still-attached Dan. Anna leaves Larry for Dan, who abandons Alice, as well. Larry finds the hurting Alice in a strip club and...

Confused? Well, on paper, these sexually-charged entanglements may seem confusing, but Marber and Nichols create brooding, disturbing scenes with astounding emotional power, which are made more unsettling by witty and memorable theatrical dialogue that is adapted well to the big screen. Be forewarned, though: The film makes for uncomfortable viewing—its dark tone, moral ambiguity and raw honesty could make you wince.

The beautiful quartet of Jude, Julia, Clive and Natalie deliver some of their best performances. Roberts tackles her most daring, atypical role to date, and comes off a winner—even if it's Owen and Portman who win citations for their performances.

When the beautiful, ruminative theme song plays in the final scene, you'll need some breathing space to shake off the doom and gloom that you get from Nichols' intelligent movie. This is one film, entertaining as it is intriguing, that you'll remember for a long time. Film buffs, don't miss it!

"Hide and Seek"

D: John Polson
S: Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning

Dr. David Callaway (Robert De Niro) wakes up at 2 a.m. without his wife beside him. Remembering what she told him ("Some things are beyond therapy") before she tucked daughter Emily (Dakota Fanning) into bed, he rushes to the bathroom and pulls his wife's blood-soaked body out of the tub—as Emily watches. Some days later, the distraught father decides to relocate to the countryside, where a beautiful, mysterious house by the



ROBERTS. Most daring role to date.

lake awaits them.

Meanwhile, David notices some disturbing changes in Emily. The young girl claims to have found a new friend, Charlie, who is soon blamed for a series of mishaps—a dead cat, nasty writing on the bathroom wall, a mysterious car crash, etc. Is Charlie for real? Or, is he merely a figment of Emily's imagination? (A psychologist explains, "A traumatized child tends to create imaginary friends.")

Director John Polson ("Swimfan") once again treads the dark waters of paranoia and psycho-suspense schlock, (think David Koepf's "Secret Window" or James Mangold's "Identity"). He populates his film with mawkish contrivances—a suspicious sheriff, strange neighbors, an overeager real estate agent, creepy music boxes, black cats, etc.

The film starts out well, but the gaunt plot leaves unanswered questions that soon affect the audience's suspension of disbelief: Why would an accomplished psychologist relocate his traumatized daughter to a place without neighbors and no kids her age she could interact with, and far away from the medical care she obviously needs so soon after her mother's death?

The film is no great shakes, metaphorically or otherwise, but De Niro and Fanning's empathetic, understated performances elevate the mediocre material to a moderately engaging psychological thriller.

"Be Cool"

D: F. Gary Gray
S: John Travolta, Uma Thurman

Former gangster-turned-successful film producer Chili Palmer (John Travolta) is losing interest in the Hollywood high life, so he

THESPIC/A3-3

What now, Nora?

By Nestor U. Torre

SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor's life has had more ups and downs than a roller-coaster ride, more twists and turns than Kennon Road. Now comes the latest, and potentially one of the most daunting: She's suspected of drug possession in the States; if found guilty, she could be imprisoned for a year.

That's shocking news for Nora's fans, who are beseeching heaven to help prove that their idol has been framed. Others, however, shrug and say, "I told you so," pointing to other instances in the past when Nora betrayed the weaker side to her character.

We submit that this isn't the time for such divisive gambits. We should all rally to Nora's defense, whatever the outcome of her case may be.

Weakness and strength

This, folks, goes beyond the parameters of weakness and strength even of guilt and innocence. This is not the time for pointing the accusing finger at the beleaguered superstar, but for making her know that we're on her side, *contra mundum*, come what may.

We don't advocate condoning whatever wrongdoing Nora may eventually be found to have committed. Our point is this: In the course of her career, Nora has done enough for the nation to make her an important person in our book, and we should therefore express our gratitude to her by supporting her in her current troubles—no questions asked.

Some readers may find this an



AUNOR. Her life has had more ups and downs than a roller-coaster ride.

excessively upbeat view of Nora's past "contributions" to the nation. They may acknowledge that she has turned in some compelling characterizations, and won more than her share of awards. But, they don't see how all that redounds to the nation's good. It's Nora who benefited most from them, they'll argue.

Personal triumphs

We beg to disagree. Exceptional performances aren't just personal triumphs for the actor, they contribute to our cultural life, to viewers' empathetic insights about their own lives—and that's important.

To our mind, however, Nora's greatest contribution is not her gift as an actress, but the way that her immense popularity in the '60s and '70s changed Filipinos' self-image.

Before Nora (the period we like

WHAT/A3-2

A3-2

SATURDAYSpecial

Del Mundo debuts as film director with 'Pepot Artista'

By Rica Arevalo

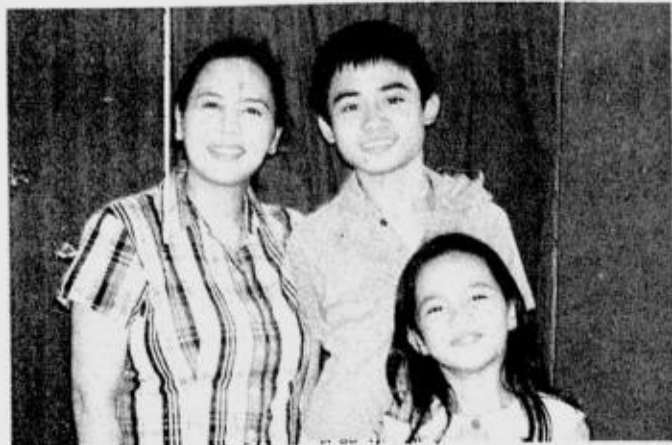
I VISITED top screenwriter Doy del Mundo on the set of his directorial debut, "Pepot Artista." As usual, he is quiet and introspective. As director, he's calm when he gives instructions to his cinematographer, brother Herky, for camera angles.

But, his line producer Mike Lim tells me Doy is starting to lose his voice and has learned to shout his orders—a welcome development for the gentle professor I knew way back in the mid-1990s.

The football field of De La Salle University is transformed into a *perya* circa 1970s by production designers Cesar Hernandez and Yeye Calderon. We see Jeffrey Quizon and Bituin Escalante, the Guy and Pip tandem in the film, rehearsing their song and dance number in their *Roleta ng Kapalaran* booth.

Daunting task

A period film is a daunting task to create on the big screen, but it looks like everyone is having fun. There are balloons and barbecue



LOOSIN (LEFT) AND CASTILLO (CENTER). Lead cast of Del Mundo's Cinemalaya entry.

for the "customers." A fortune teller is waiting in the wings for her next client. Extras are garbed in retro outfits and '70s hairstyles.

Doy has found a gem in Elijah Castillo, the kid who recently appeared in the stage version of "Himala," as Pepot, the lead character. He's playful, but he knows how to execute Doy's instructions. He asks a lot of questions

and is very observant.

In the dressing room, Rio Locsin, Lou Veloso and Nina Medina are waiting for their scenes. They should be admired for their patience—they may have been waiting for hours, but they're still in good spirits.

Rio plays Pepot's mother. She says, "Kilala ko si Doy bilang writer, parati ko siyang nakakatrabaho. On the set, seryoso siya sa gus-

to riyang gawin."

Nina, who is famous for her Lola Oba role in a TV commercial, plays the principal. She adds, "I accepted this job *para ma-expose* working with professional actors."

Veteran stage actor

Veteran stage actor Lou Veloso explains, "I see Doy's potential as a good director. Ang arts, *palitan ng ideya at karunungan*. Kaming *beteranong* stage actors, *merong natututunan sa mga baguhan*, and vice-versa." Also in the cast are Cris Villanueva, Nonie Buen-camino, Ces Quesada, Tado and other stars in cameo roles.

"Pepot Artista" was Doy's first screenplay. He wrote it as a student in NUT's scriptwriting class at the Ateneo. He also wrote the screenplays of film classics like "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Kisapmata," "Merika," "Mulanay" and "Bayaning Third World."

Doy, 57, the screenwriter turned director, has arrived. "Pepot Artista" will be premiered at the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival in July.

IL DIVO. Promotes new vocal concept that applies operatic technique and virtuosity to interpretation of romantic songs.



Il Divo, boy band with a difference

By Nestor U. Torre

SIMON Cowell has carved out a prosperous career being bitchy and difficult to please, but he's obviously very impressed with the four dishy and talented hunks who make up the new male singing group called Il Divo.

Now, the music biz is crowded with boy bands made up of male lookers who can sort of sing—but Il Divo is as different from a boy band as fast food is from gourmet dinner.

For one thing, Il Divo doesn't sing silly bubblegum tunes, it promotes a new vocal concept that applies operatic technique and virtuosity to the interpretation of romantic songs from the popular repertoire, with full orchestral accompaniment.

Format

Yes, the concept is similar to the Three Tenors concertizing format that has worked so well for the likes of Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras.—But the middleaged tenors look like the Il Divo members' grandfathers, and that's a key difference, you'll agree!

In addition, the group's popular repertoire makes them even more accessible and appealing to mainstream-music's youth audience, despite the "operatic" nature of their singing technique. So, how does Simon Cowell fit into this equation?

Well, he found the guys. He went on a two-year worldwide search and auditioned these four classically-trained male singers with stunning voices and looks:

Sebastian comes from France, Urs from Switzerland, David from United States, and Carlos from Spain.

How is this musical experiment turning out? The group has been dubbed "the world's first operatic supergroup" and has cut a self-titled album, which debuted at the top of the charts in the UK last November.

Debut compilation

To date, more than one million CDs have been sold, making the album four times platinum in the UK, three times platinum in Ireland, and platinum in Norway—the only countries that have released the group's debut compilation.

Think what could happen once the album is heard in the US, other parts of Europe, South and Central America, Asia—etc!

Well, Il Divo's album is now being released in the Philippines by Sony BMG Music Entertainment, so local music lovers will be adding to the album's worldwide sales. For a musical introduction to the group, catch their music video of "Unbreak My Heart (Regresa A Mi)" on MYX.

Higher standard

The classically-trained quartet's success is a promising development because it's provided a boost to the currently flagging fortunes of male singing groups. It's also set a higher standard for male singers to aspire to, beyond the bubblegum and lollipop cuteness of boy bands.

It's like having Josh Groban, Michael Bubl  and other classically-trained male soloists performing together, hopefully with four times their musical appeal and power as solo performers.

Will the local recording industry follow suit? If Il Divo continues on its upward trajectory on the international music scene, you can bet on it!

Music for children at Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio

By Emmy Cayabyab

EVERY summer, Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio presents a culminating activity that warms the heart. One of the showcases that easily charms the audience is the Musikgarten showcase, which features children who, at the end of the summer classes, are able to play musical instruments as an ensemble, sing in correct pitch and rhythm—and move and act at the same time!

Difference

Yes, there is no doubt that children always bring the house down. However, the difference that one sees in this particular children's showcase is the discipline and teamwork that have been instilled by the studio's diligent and experienced music teachers, as manifested by the kids' exemplary performances. Last year, as part of The Music Studio's theme of presenting



MUSIKGARTEN showcases unique production numbers.

Ryan Cayabyab's works in the showcases to celebrate his 50th birth anniversary, the Musikgarten class performed his children's musical, "Alamat ng Dilis," with libretto by National Artist Virgilio Almarino.

Due to its warm and rousing reception, Mr. C was inspired to write another musical for this

year's Musikgarten showcase: "Ang Alamat ng Araw at Buwan." Not only will this year's batch be able to perform another musical, but this year's Musikgarten class will premiere another engaging mini-musical by Ryan!

Incidentally, as a "bookender" to Mr. C's 50th birth anniversary,

The Music Studio will showcase more works by The Maestro performed by classes and individual performers.

Call Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio at 844-3330 and 843-2874. Look for Melissa or Gladys. Or visit RCTMS at T-1B Sunvar Plaza, Pasay Road cor Amorsolo st., Makati City.

Viewing treat for animation fans

By Noelani Torre

HE'S square, he's yellow, and for quite sometime now, he's been making young and old viewers alike very happy, indeed. If you've tuned in at all to Nickelodeon in the past five years, then you'd know of whom we speak—none other than that goggle-eyed, developmentally arrested synthetic sea sponge, SpongeBob Squarepants.

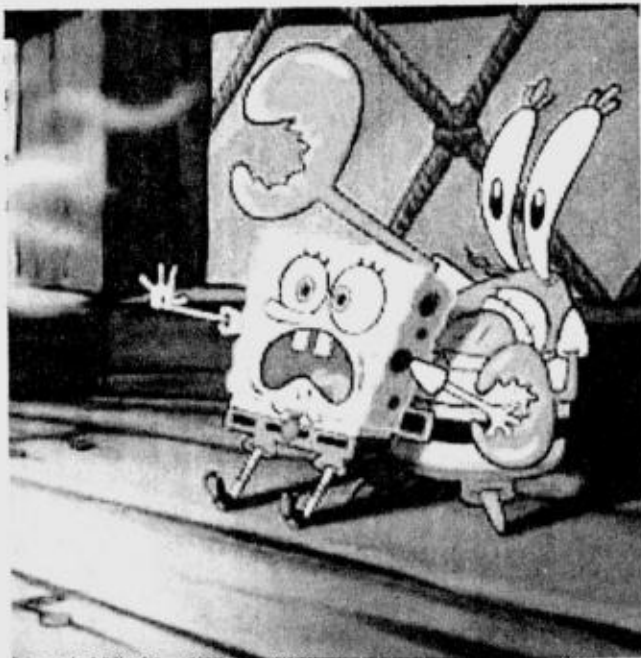
One of the stars, if not the star of the Nickelodeon network, this absorbent creation of Stephen Hillenburg has just made his jump to the big screen in—what else?—"The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie."

Risky undertaking

Transferring something made for television onto the big screen has always been a risky undertaking, particularly for Nickelodeon, whose previous efforts haven't been successful (though "The Wild Thornberys" was pretty good).

In this case, Hillenburg himself is the helmsman and he's succeeded in making a movie that, though it pales in comparison to the actual episodes, is still a pretty enjoyable watch even for casual fans like us.

A SpongeBob episode usually runs for around 10 minutes, whereas the movie is 80 minutes longer. We expected the makers to resort to a little padding here and there, but they managed to entertain us



"THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE." Madcap flights of whimsy without moral ambiguity.

with a straightforward tale involving a discernable beginning, middle, and end.

This linearity might surprise SpongeBob fans who are more used to the little guy's zany out-of-plot shenanigans, but it does make the movie more cohesive. We did miss the sponge's out of the blue movements, though.

There are no doubt going to be people who will diss this movie. It's not for everybody—though most people un-

der the age of 12 will probably like it—inasmuch as it requires a sense of humor that is, well, childish, and sensitive to visual puns.

Childish

SpongeBob Squarepants doesn't pretend to be anything but childish, however, and it is this sheer, unmitigated reveling in his own immaturity and its accompanying innocence that makes him such a delight to

watch. The bright-eyed sponge only gives a polite "Well, good luck with that!" to raving one-eyed protozoan and official bad guy Plankton, and goes on an ice cream binge with best-friend Patrick (a chubby purple starfish) when he doesn't get the job promotion he was angling for.

The movie doesn't burden us with the requisite moral lesson because it doesn't need to. Despite its madcap flights of whimsy, there is no moral ambiguity here. SpongeBob and Patrick are honest, decent creatures whose only fault, if you can call it that, is a relentless optimism that vaguely reminds us of the philosophy of the flower children of the 1960s. And the bad guys do get what's coming to them in the end.

Cameo

There are a couple of scenes meshing the 2-D cartoon folk with real settings and people—a bleakly funny sea souvenir shop incident where SpongeBob and Patrick are slowly fried by a lamp, and a cameo by David Hasselhoff who jets off the shore with the two would-be heroes on his back—one of the film's highest points of absurdity.

Other stars who lent their presence to the movie are Jeffrey Tambor (the voice of King Neptune), Scarlett Johansson (Mindy the Mermaid), and Alec Baldwin (Dennis, the hired killer).

Juris and Chin sing from the heart

By Remy M. Umerez

THE SINGING duo MYMP (Juris and Chin) regards Tapika on Katipunan rd., Blue Ridge, a lucky performing venue. They started singing at Tapika two years ago, and it quickly became a meeting place for long-lost friends and followers as well.

"Igawa ninyo naman ng kanta ang buhay ko," a friend would ask us and we obliged if her story was inspiring," says Juris, who has composed about 50 songs, mostly about love. A few of them have been included in their album, "Beyond Acoustic."

New friendships

New friendships are formed during breaktime. Before doing a request, MYMP (Make Your Momma Proud) finds time to have a chat with the request sender and finds out what is so special about the song that has been requested.

It was at Tapika that MYMP was discovered by Ivory Music & Video. Only recently, their second album was launched. Their debut album, "Soulful Acoustic," thanks to the hit single, "A Little Bit," has gone platinum.

MYMP has logged the most requested songs they have sung in



MYMP Duo releases third album, "Versions and Beyond."

their countless performances in bars. This is what "Versions," the second album, is about. It is a special CD for supportive fans. The 12-track CD contains cuts like "True Colors," "Especially For You," "Constantly," "Mysterious Ways."

Double CD

A double CD makes up their third album, featuring all the tracks from "Beyond Acoustic" and "Versions." It's simply called "Versions and Beyond."

(MYMP performs every Wednesday at Tapika.)

What now, Nora?

From page A3-1

to call B.N.), Filipino film stars were generally tall and foreign-looking, and thus intensified our colonial view that white was in, and brown was out.

Kayumanggi Nora became so popular that millions of similarly brown Filipinos identified with her, and made the dark, vertically-challenged water seller from Iriga a superstar.

Charisma

This wasn't even Nora's doing, but her charisma made it possible. And, loving her and her "native" attributes, her many fans began loving themselves for their Filipino-ness, as well.

It started with looks, but went

beyond that. The Nora phenomenon enabled many people here to make an attitudinal change that went against the colonial mentality that had crippled us for many decades.

After Nora made it, more *kayumanggi* stars became successful, and the key point continued to be made. Sure, the time came when Nora's popularity dipped, and *ti-soy*-looking stars became the rage again, but the superstar's key contribution cannot be discounted, and we must express our gratitude by supporting her now.

So, let's stop quibbling, value her contribution as it deserves to be, and show Nora that she's appreciated, understood—and loved!

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005

SATURDAYSpecial

A3

Celebrities support 'Panaghoy ng mga Bata'

By Nestor U. Torre

WE had an inspiring time at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenhills 3, last Saturday, at the special fundraising concert for families of the victims of food poisoning in Bohol.

Called "Panaghoy ng mga Bata," the show was put up by Cesar Montano and Richard Merk to help families and survivors cope with the tragedy. Aside from financial assistance, they will also go into educational and psychological support initiatives.

Outstanding students

Cesar shares, "I visited the schools and found out that some of the young victims were outstanding students. We intend to honor their memory by trying to improve the schools' conditions,

and exhibiting some of the children's drawings.

"We will be rebuilding some classrooms, and we'll put up a library and a clinic. We will work with family and child psychologist Honey Carandang, conducting counseling sessions with affected families and surviving children, to help them cope with trauma and depression.

"We are also asking agencies and institutions to volunteer the services of other counselors who can help the affected community cope with the tragedy."

Cesar headed the talented artists who performed for free in the fundraising show. They included John Lesaca, Luke Mejares, Leah Navarro, Rico J. Puno, Marco Sison, Willie Revillame, Jenine Desiderio, Geneva Cruz, Giselle Sanchez, KC Montero, Tir-



CESAR AND SUNSHINE. Put their popularity to good use by boosting significant causes.

so Cruz III and Bernie Uy.

We arrived at the venue early, and were shortly joined at our table by our best buddies, Behn Cervantes, Au Cobarrubias, Lollie Mara and Norma Japitana, Ce-

sar's ever-loving manager.

Later, the crowd of enthusiastic donors was boosted by Cito Beltran, Mandy Navasero, Ricky Davao, RJ Jacinto, Emy Arcilla, Beth Tamayo, Kier Legaspi, Gil

Portes, Bayani Agbayani and some kindhearted souls from Japan, Australia and other countries.

Cesar, Sunshine Cruz Montano, Richard and Roni Tapia Merk were pleased to see that so many people had responded to their call for the show biz and business communities to bring help, hope and normalcy to survivors of the tragedy in Bohol. Times may be hard, but the human heart remains soft and responsive, ready to share the balm of love with those who need it most.

We had to leave before our carriage turned into a pumpkin, but as we departed, we saw that more donors were pouring into Merk's welcoming entrance, making the special fundraising show an even more inspiring success.

Incidentally, donations are still being accepted by Cesar and Richard. Prospective donors may deposit their contributions straight to account name: Panaghoy ng mga Bata, at any Bank of the Philippine Islands branch, account number BPI-CA-0011-1781-89. Call 757-4720 or cell 0917 824-1465.

Fame and fortune

We hope that other local stars will put their celebrity to good use by similarly boosting causes of their own choosing. This would go a long way in dispelling the cynical view that entertainment luminaries are in the biz only for personal fame and fortune.

Talents become stars because they've been helped by many people. Now, it's time for them to help others in turn!



FORUM was attended by (clockwise, from left) Ronen Hazarika, Dr. Metodio Palaypay, Patteri Makitalo, Tita Giron, Allan Tibby and Mara Pardo de Tavera.

Technology for cleaner air

AN ENVIRONMENTAL forum to lessen pollution was recently hosted by Prime Asia magazine and DMX Technology. At the forum, these views were expressed:

In 1973, Allan Tibby, COO of DMX Technology said, he could ride a motorcycle from Caloocan to Bacalaran without choking. Now, the whole stretch is polluted by bad engines and dirty diesel fuel.

According to Roni Tapia-Merk, editor of Prime Asia magazine, our current concern about rising oil prices and drastic weather changes brought about by global warming can be addressed by the new diesel fuel technology. A recent DOH report reveals that 16 million children are affected by air pollution.

Advocacy

Senator Shahani's latest advocacy for the environment is to promote dairy farming to lessen milk importation, and to make more milk available to Filipinos.

Rene Pineda of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution said it took two years for the government to ban lead in gasoline. New technology for diesel fuel to clean up the environment will require everybody's perseverance and cooperation.

Two-stroke motorcycle engines and tricycles that use cheap fuel are top pollutants.

Mara Pardo de Tavera of the Organic Farming Movement added that farming is affected by air, soil and water pollution. She exhorted people to be passionate in demanding government involvement for the crusade for cleaner air and healthier environment.

Development

Scientists from Oxonica are involved in the development and commercialization of nanotechnology products like the new diesel fuel, Envirox, according to Hazarika.

Patteri Makitalo said that, while premium diesel costs slightly higher at pump stations, reduction in fuel consumption will bring big net savings to motorists. "If every diesel user in Metro Manila shifts to the new fuel, this would bring a visible dramatic change in air quality in six months," he said.

The independent Philippine Petroleum Corporations Association, through its chair, Fernando Martinez, who is also CEO of Eastern Petroleum, expressed support for the new fuel. Unioil, Seoil, Flying V and Eastern service stations are gradually introducing the product to their motorist clients.

Email mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph

Thespic . . . From page A3-1

takes a talented, but largely unrecognized chanteuse (Christina Millian) under his wing for her big splash in the music business.

—And the widow (Uma Thurman) of his slain music-mogul friend is in for the long, riotous ride, as Chili juggles dodging bullets from the Russian mob while convincing Aerosmith's Steven Tyler to sing a duet with his ward to give her the necessary push to the limelight.

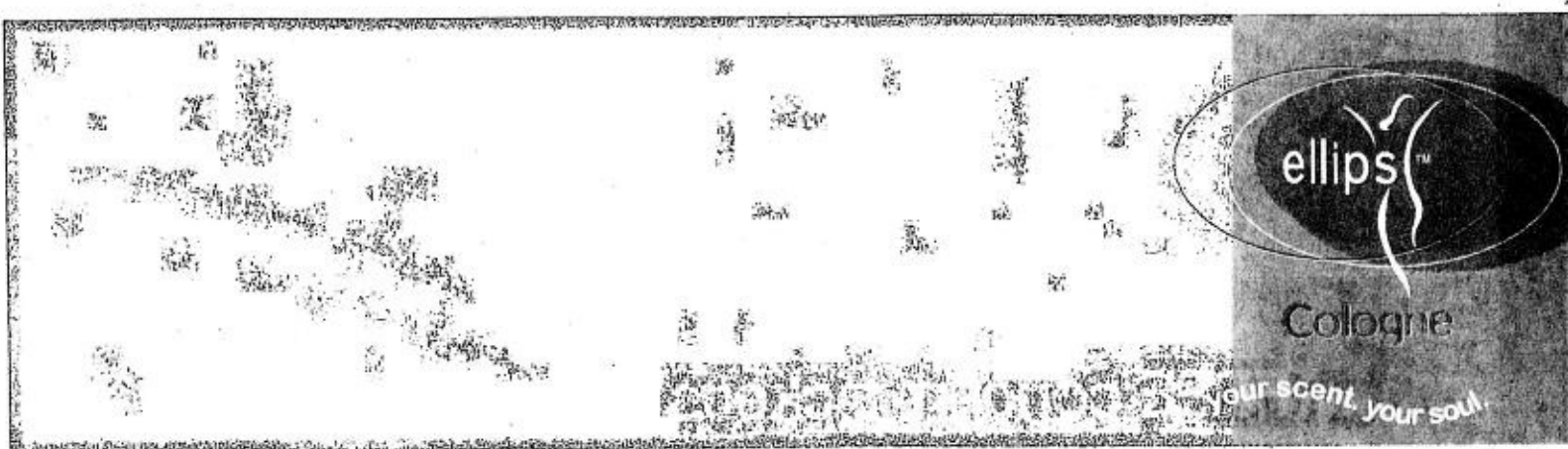
Predictable but fast-paced, the movie is littered with hilarious characters that invigorate a tired plot: The Rock is memorable as a bodyguard and wannabe actor-singer-dancer with gender issues (and he proves that he can dance with the best of them!), Vince Vaughn portrays a Caucasian talent manager who thinks he's black, etc.

The laughs may not come all the time, but there's enough comic zing spouting from Chili and his zany gang to while your summer blues away.

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero



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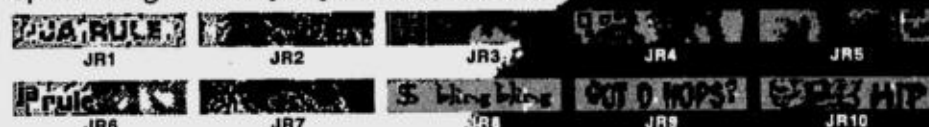
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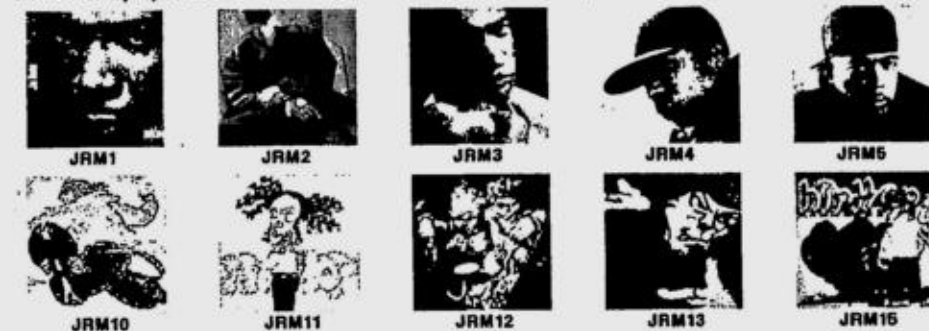
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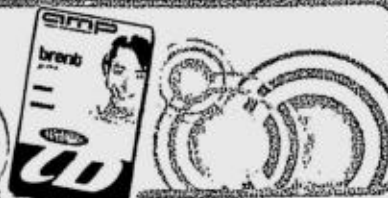
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SATURDAY *Special*

Celebrity stalkers cross the line from fan to fanatic

NEW YORK—They're out there!

Catherine Zeta-Jones, Sheryl Crow and Mel Gibson recently faced theirs in court. Anna Kournikova's took a nude swim to find hers. Andrea Evans feared hers for a decade.

They're celebrity stalkers, perpetrators of an emotional crime that's often—but not always—the result of mental illness.

Despite a recent rash of cases, experts say the act of celebrity stalking isn't increasing, but stars are more willing to go to police when confronted. And, of course, the media is more likely to cover subsequent arrests and trials. All this has led to specialized police units and even entire businesses aimed at dealing with a troubled few.

Soap tart

Evans was playing soap tart Tina Clayton on "One Life to Live" in the 1980s when her stalker showed up several times at her Manhattan set. He once slashed his wrists outside the studios, then used Evans' name as his next-of-kin.

"All of a sudden, I went from having a nice, happy-go-lucky life to having regular conversations with the police," Evans told The Associated Press. "This was before people were that aware. There was great disbelief that this man was trying to harm me, and the police could do nothing about it."

After three years of living in terror, Evans quit "One Life to Live" and dropped out of public view. She wouldn't be seen on a soap again until 1999.

Incidents

Following the murder of "My Sister Sam" actress Rebecca Schaeffer in 1989 and incidents like Evans', the government, Hollywood and the world began to recognize celebrity stalking in 1990.

As many armchair sleuths have learned from "CSI," material crimes like burglary and murder leave copious amounts of physical evidence—but stalking is harder to prove. Witness the love-struck Crow fan who was acquitted last November after ardently pursuing the singer for 15 months, claiming he communicated with her telepathically, and even visiting her sister and father.

"Stalking is more nebulous, much more of a challenge," said John Lane, a former Los Angeles Police Department detective. "It is very difficult to investigate."

Laws now exist in all states to combat stalking. In Los Angeles, the LAPD's Threat Management Unit exclusively tackles stalking. In 2004, it handled 60 celebrity cases. That's typical, according to the unit's leader, Jeff Dunn.

"There's a rise in reporting," said Dunn. "Early in the '90s, there was reluctance for fear of negative publicity. I don't think they were widely reported. Now in 2005, you can't turn on the TV without seeing a story about some sort of stalking. It doesn't carry the negative stigma anymore."

Convicted

In recent years, the likes of Pamela Anderson, Madonna, Steven Spielberg, Nicole Kidman, David Letterman and Gwyneth Paltrow have claimed stalkers. In the past two weeks alone, people were convicted or pleaded no contest to stalking Gibson and Zeta-Jones.

In the Anna Kournikova case, a man was arrested last Jan. 30 after swimming nude across a Florida bay toward Kournikova's \$5-million estate, then turning up on the pool deck at the wrong house and yelling, "Annal Save me!"

Dunn said for every celebrity stalking case that's splashed across headlines, 20 are never heard about. Those types of cases often fall to Lane, who after helping establish the LAPD anti-stalking unit, started his own personal security firm, Omega Threat Management Inc. It's one of several companies that take care of celebrities' threats—for a price.

"We work pretty well with private security firms, some are better than others. Some fill a niche," said Dunn. "We can't provide 24-7 protection. They know what their limitations are. There's a line of demarcation. It's symbiotic."

Much like murder, mental health plays a major part in the crime of stalking. But, stalking isn't always the result of mental disorder.

"Most of the time, what you've got is an individual who is lonely or socially incompetent," said Mace Benson, a psychiatrist at the University of California-Los Angeles who's worked on many stalking cases.

When mental health is an issue, disorders such as schizophrenia, some forms of dement-

tia and an emotional real-life trigger are usually to blame. These elements combined make it easier for an individual to break down that invisible fourth wall.

"Usually, there's been some kind of major loss in the life of the individual, either one event or a series of events," said psychologist J. Reid Meloy. "They then create a private, bizarre reality that is very defined."

Meloy has researched stalking since 1989, was the editor of the first science journal on the subject, and has consulted on high profile cases like Madonna's and Paltrow's.

Bond

"Somehow, they connect at a very deep emotional level," said Meloy. "With the Pal-

trou case, he saw her in the movie, 'Shakespeare in Love,' and formed a bond. The onset was very rapid."

Stopping a stalker is often easy, according to the experts. In most instances, it just takes an intervention. But in extreme cases, confrontation might be the salt on the wound.

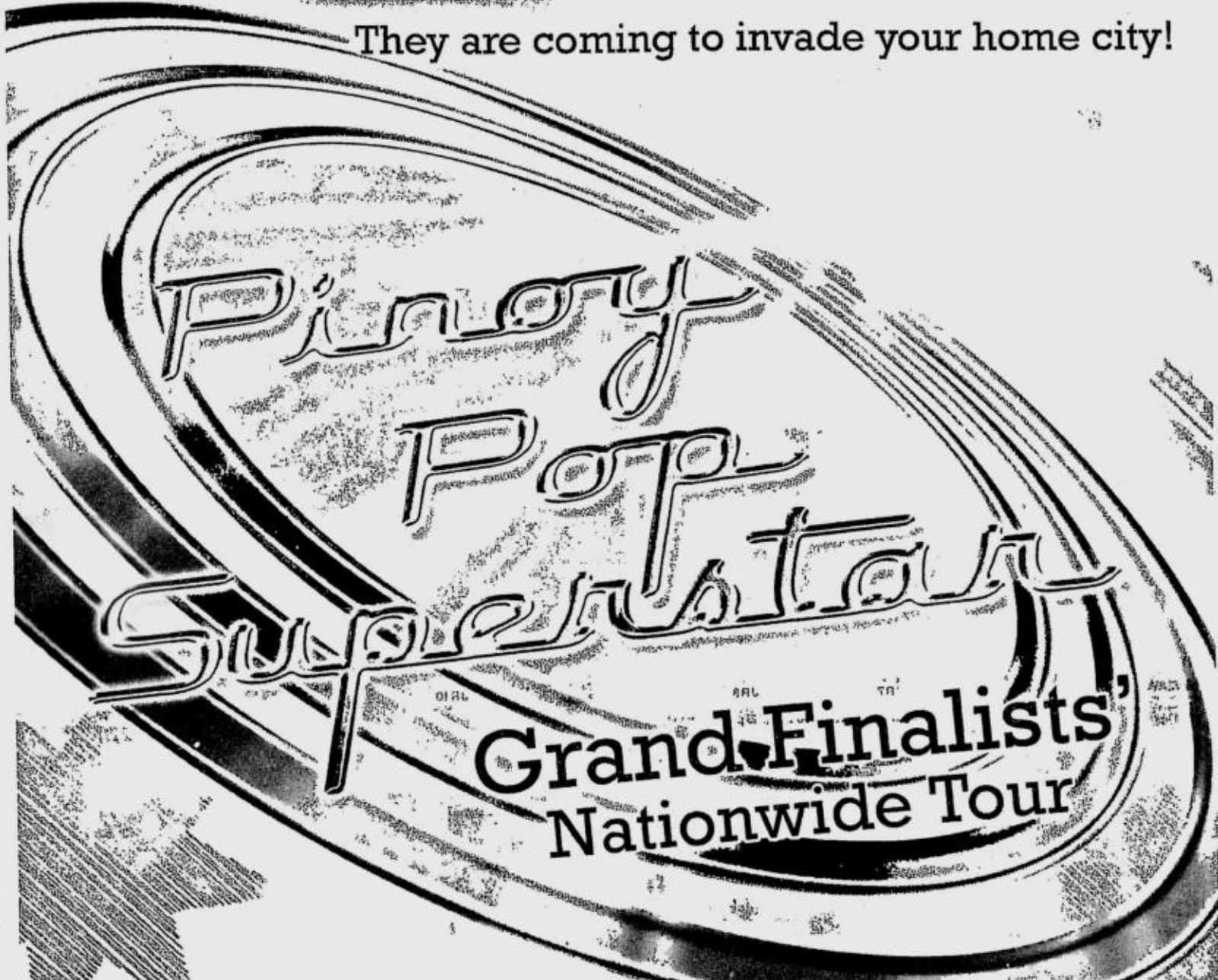
Evans' frightful experience never reached the courthouse—or a conclusion. She's been back in the soap opera limelight, vamping it up on "Passions," as Rebecca Hotchkiss since 2000. She actively speaks out on the subject. But, she will never forget him.

"It has a lasting effect on me," said Evans. "I love what I do. I'm so grateful I've been able to get my life back after that horrible experience!"



ZETA-JONES AND GIBSON. Hounded by mentally-disturbed admirers. AP

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GMA



CROW. Her love-struck follower pursued her for 15 months.

'OPRAH' Liberating experience for wounded souls

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

MORE than being the ultimate feel-good show where more than a hundred brand new cars, top-of-the-line home appliances, and gadgets for the tech savvies are given away, and where its live audience and viewers get visual treats through celebrity interviews, the "Oprah Winfrey Show" has been a medium for quite a number of wounded hearts wanting to fix their lives.

Sensitive subject

In recent episodes shown on Star World, Oprah tackled the sensitive subject of emotionally abused wives, who comprise one-third of women in the United States. A couple took the challenge by allowing a camera to be set up in their living room for a week, revealing how a man named Eddie called his wife Kim all sorts of nasty names.

The couple (who later appeared on the show) summoned all of their courage to answer Oprah's questions.

Reason

A psychologist and family expert explained the reason behind such rage and verbal abuse, saying Eddie was actually angry at himself for not being able to respond to Kim's emotional needs and, therefore, took it out on her.

He then suggested that Eddie become more sensitive and compassionate to Kim. There were tears flowing down Eddie's cheeks as he acknowledged that he had hurt Kim a lot, and he went on to ask for Kim's forgiveness.

Another episode dealt with the guilt that comes with the loss of a loved one. The show featured a husband who left his car engine running in their garage, accidentally killing his wife with deadly carbon monoxide; a woman whose mother-in-law was killed in a car crash after they both attended Oprah's show, and a father whose 10-year-old son mysteriously disappeared in the woods.

Couple

Then there was a couple whose nine-year-old daughter was accidentally hit by a car driven by a young woman who said she was consumed with guilt after taking the girl to the hospital, where the latter soon died.

On the show, the couple embraced the woman and told her she had nothing to

worry about because it was not her fault. Later, the man handed a surprised Oprah a check for \$10,000 for her charity in memory of their daughter's passing. Indeed, television has never captured such human kindness!

Murder

Another show focused on a couple's pain arising from the murder of their daughter by her own husband, who pretended to be someone else and lived the lie all his life. Oprah ended the show by calling on a girl whom their daughter had helped overcome life's adversities by showing their daughter's handwritten letter addressed to the girl.

Still another episode focused on the compulsion of some people to hoard things and stuff their homes with clutter and things they didn't really need. The show featured a 58-year-old woman named Carol who acknowledged she needed help to clean up the mess in her home—and in her life.

The show flew in two British home-care professionals and their crew to clean up Carol's really filthy home.

Result

The result: A spanking clean house with 50 large bags full of garbage taken out!

Confessing she used to be a neatness freak and a perfectionist, Carol revealed she married and was divorced six times, and said she lived like trash among the "garbage" in her home.

A psychologist explained that as a result of Carol's inability to overcome depression at some point in her life, she would not lift a finger to clean up her clutter because her being a perfectionist led to some kind of mental paralysis. He advised her to have someone around to guide her in cleaning up as necessary, and decide which things she needed to discard from time to time.

Other episodes shared experiences that pulled at one's heartstrings—shoplifters who divulged secret lives nobody knew about, women who won their battle with the bulge, and three sisters who were sexually molested by their father, a Protestant pastor who was later brought to the bar of justice.

Important lessons

Oprah has truly unleashed the power of television to take that first step to heal broken hearts and to free them from their "demons,"

teaching millions of viewers important lessons in life.

Unlike most wannabes on local television, Oprah personifies sincerity, sensitivity and empathy. She looks into the eyes of her guests while intently listening to their woes. She takes time to feel their pain and anguish without being emotionally carried away, even as her audience is seen wiping away a tear or two.

You would be tempted to think that if Oprah thought of making a living as a counselor (or life strategist), she'd make a darned good one! We certainly look forward to many more of Oprah's interviews that comfort and give hope to wounded souls.



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TV GUIDE
Saturday, April 9, 2005



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ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Korik	Value Vision	Value Vision																
NBN																			
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown With Ko Lang															
GMA 7	Startalk																		
RPN 9																			
IBC 13																			
JackTV																			
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Konan & Kel	1, 2, 3																
MYX ETC																			
Cinema One	Ayos Lungs Pare Ko																		
Studio 23																			
Star World	Action Man	Totally Outrageous Bachelor Caught On Tape	World TV	Miami Vice															
CNN	Diplomacy License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live													
National Geographic	Solar Sports	Big Bats Nine																	
Lifestyle Network	WTA Pro Tennis 105: Diamond Williams vs. Mauresmo	HSTV Special																	
HBO	Credos 2 The Game																		
Star Movies																			
Cartoon Network																			
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina: The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Marlin Mystery	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Mind Of The Crime										
Cinemax	The Ticking Man																		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Chang																	
Discovery Channel																			
Sports Plus																			
EWTN	Defending Life	Angels (3:15 PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Agapio and the Nuns of Our Lady of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass											

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Musical treats, comic surprises in Ang4 show

By Rito P. Asilo

LAST Tuesday, we were pleasantly surprised to see a very relaxed Bimbo Cerrudo ham it up with Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez and Dyords Javier. We've acted with Bimbo in a number of stage productions, including the currently touring religious musical, Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's "Nasaan si Hesus?" But, he's always played dramatic characters in them.

Golden voice

In his team-up with Pinky, Isay and Dyords, he lets his hair down and proves that he's more than just golden voice and good looks. And his strong tenor complements Pinky's soaring soprano and Isay's pristine alto. As for Javier, he also does some singing ("More Than You'll Ever Know") but, as expected, he wows the

crowd more with his comic improvisations.

The zany musical quartet, collectively known as The Ang4getables, is on its second month as featured performers every Tuesday at The Tavern in Greenbelt 3, and, despite our heavy work load, we were glad we decided to go.

Indeed, Ang4 has a lot to smile about these days. The popular group celebrates its 12th anniversary this year. And they continue to win admirers with their infectious song-and-skit repertoire, with comedy surprises that sometimes involve members of the audience.

The camaraderie and chemistry are obvious, and they deliver the goods even without green and brown jokes. Ang4 is all about wholesome fun—even the potentially "naughty" puns that Dyords delivers come off as relatively

tame and inoffensive.

Bimbo joined Ang4 six years ago when Mon David left the group, and it took him a while to relax and get used to the just-for-fun, self-deprecating banter exchanged throughout the show. "It was easy for me to get into the groove of things because they are all friends of mine. And since I'm used to singing solo, it was refreshing to share the spotlight with accomplished performers who knew how to give and take," he shares.

Always a delight

We've known Pinky since we acted in our first theater production (Leo Rialp's "Alikabok") 10 years ago, toured with her in Ryan Cayabyab's popular "Magnificat," and directed her in the original Filipino staging of "The Vagina Monologues."

But, it's always a delight just to

see Pinky perform and demonstrate her rapport with the audience—not to mention her stratospheric vocal range that never fails to amaze us.

Isay, on the other hand, possesses one of the most beautiful altos around. This woman doesn't even have to incorporate comic flourishes to deliver a memorable performance.

We know that taking care of family (Robert Seña and their kids) is her priority, but it's a pity that we don't get to see more of Isay on the legitimate stage. (She was last seen in the stage version of "Himala.") Her performances with Ang4 give local audiences a rare taste of her considerable thespic skills as singer and actress.

In the show last Tuesday, Ang4 showed why the group is still around after all these years. The musical repertoire alone gives



JAVIER, MARQUEZ, ALVAREZ AND CERRUDO. Camaraderie and chemistry.

great value for money: "The Prayer," for one, brought the house down. While Isay, Bimbo and Pinky sang the song with hair-raising mastery, Dyords stood beside them looking like he was ready to join them any second—although he never did! His deadpan demeanor elicited giggles.

Falsetto

Bimbo's "Reasons" was another crowd pleaser—complete with note-perfect falsetto and vocal curlicues. Earth, Wind and Fire, eat your heart out!

Isay and Dyords rendered a beautiful R&B version of "I Can't Stop Loving You," imbued with the characteristic Ray Charles growl. It took us awhile to identify the song, until our friend Andy Bais told us that the reworked song was the popular Nora Aunor ditty that became popular in the '70s.

Even when the songs didn't work (the requested ones, especially), the group delivered them with confidence and aplomb—a testament to Ang4's reliability and durability as top-caliber performers—as soloists and as a cohesive group.

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12. Employees and relatives of Samsung employees, Cheil Marketing and all its affiliated marketing, PR, ad and promotion agencies from the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.

Promo period: 18 March to 30 May 2005

Per DTI NCR No. 0688, Series of 2005

Pouran and the drive to direct

By Libay Linsang Cantor

POURAN Derakhshandeh had to contend with some obstacles before becoming Iran's leading woman director today. "At first," she says, "my family did not want me to study cinema. They wanted me to study medicine."

Iran does not allow women to be at the helm of most things. Yet Pouran observes, "Right now, the active participation of women in society can be seen in the arts, especially in Iranian music and literature. Before, women were only actresses in Iranian cinema. They see that being a director is really a job for men, and it would be hard for women to come in the middle and do this 'really hard work.' To most people, to see a woman director is astonishing."

Doubts

Overcoming her family's doubts, Pouran studied filmmaking at the College of Television and Cinema, and graduated in the early 1970s. Her drive to make her own films was enough motivation for her to go against her family's "traditional career expectations" and pursue her dream. Her major influence in taking up film is her mother.

After graduating from film school, Pouran began doing short films. She also wrote teleplays and produced TV docus. During the Iranian Revolution of the late 1970s, she continued writing for television. She was also busy doing research. Pouran is a meticulous researcher; she believes research is the most crucial part of making a script.

Iran-Iraq War

Again, the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s did not stop her from doing short films and moving on to mainstream narrative, full-length films. After the war, she emerged as one of the leading female directors of Iran with her first feature-length film, "Mute Connection." This first effort was followed by other works well received by Iranian and international film festival audiences.

Soon, other women followed suit, making short films, doing managerial work, scriptwriting, and producing box-office hits. However, only a few, like Saniya Makhmalbaf, became directors.

The Philippines was privileged to have screened Pouran's latest feature film, "Love without Frontiers" at the 15th International Women's Film Festival at the Cine Adama, University of the Philippines Film Institute (UPFI).

Plight of women

Pouran's films consistently highlight the plight of women, especially in times of conflict and hardship. She likes discussing social issues and dealing with the fate of children. In fact, her next film is about Iran's youth. She also plans to do a film on divorce—which is illegal in Iran.

Pouran sees parallels between the Philippines and Iran when it comes to women and filmmaking. In a Filmmaker's Forum at the festival, Pouran spoke of overcoming difficulties in the film industry, such as censorship.

"In my country, there are certain criteria for filmmakers to follow. For example, we cannot show women without the headdress called hijab. When we are limited to show something not permitted, we make a substitute concept which can compensate for the one we cannot show. This is what we call the 'second motion picture substitute.' Iranian cinema has many excluded concepts, especially when it comes to showing images of violence and sex."

Suggestions

One problem that Iran and the Philippines do not share is the nurturing of local cinema. When told that Hollywood movies dominate the Philippine market, Pouran made a few suggestions:

"In Iran, we produce only 70 films a year. We show about six new films every month—all Iranian films. There are only one or two Hollywood movies shown there monthly. You have to do it this way. In our country, we make our movies for our own audience. It is our right to do so. The important outcome of that is we are able to protect our movies."

BUSINESS

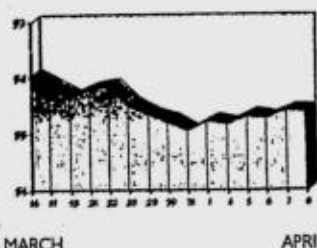
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Revival of daylight savings time eyed

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.595 = \$ 1
As of 5 p.m., April 8, 2005Y 108.65 = \$ 1
As of 5 p.m., April 8, 2005GOLD: \$425.00-425.50
per ounce Hong Kong, April 8, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower

SHARES ended lower yesterday for the fourth straight session as investors exercised caution following an increase in key interest rates, fiscal reform delays and high oil prices, traders said.

Thursday's rates hike was expected to take some liquidity away from the equities market and would likely prompt banks to lift lending rates as well, which could hurt the economy, dealers said.

However, they said the light turnover suggested the market has, to some extent, already discounted the central bank's policy tightening and that bargain-hunting may follow on Monday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 7.53 points to 1,906.69 after moving between 1,899.31 and 1,915.65.

Volume was 457.46 million shares worth P979.56 million and falling stocks beat risers 44 to 24, with 42 stocks unchanged.

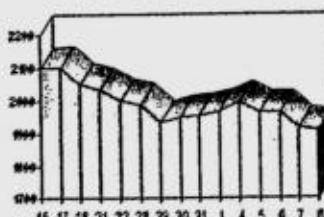
The broader all-shares index fell 4.66 points to 1,174.16.

"The central bank is signalling a further tightening in the future. With this trend, the best shelter for money will be the money markets. Higher interest rates will slow down the engine for economic growth," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

"But the selling pressure had eased, as indicated by the light turnover today, which is a good indication that the initial rate hike has already been priced in," he added.

AP, AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINOS may find themselves waking up an hour earlier than usual in the coming days as the government considers reviving the Daylight Savings Time (DST) scheme.

During a multi-sectoral meeting held in Malacañang Thursday, one of the energy conservation measures suggested was the revival of the DST, last implemented during the Ramos regime when the country suffered hours-long power outages every day.

Other measures raised during the meeting included the implementation of the four-day work week in the private sector, a vehicle reduction program, youth mobilization for energy conservation activities and the use of the media for public information campaigns

on energy saving.

In an earlier interview, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion also suggested that shopping malls close shop once a week to save on electricity.

"I appreciate the positive response of the private sector. The support of industry leaders to energy conservation means the private sector is willing to do more with less energy, thereby providing scope for greater productivity and efficiency," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement.

Present during the Malacañang meeting were Lotilla, Trade and Industry Secretary Juan Santos, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and representatives from prominent business and industry groups, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Management Association of the Philippines.

With the volatility of oil prices in the world market, energy conservation has become a matter that demands very serious attention.

Lotilla said the government's EC (Energy Conservation) Way of Life campaign, launched in August 2004, had already gained ample appreciation and support from vari-

ous industry leaders.

Meneleo Carlos, former chair of the Council of Advisers on Energy Affairs and current chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, was named the EC Way of Life Industry Champion.

The government is implementing or is considering the implementation of several energy-saving measures to help the country cope with the ever-escalating costs of petroleum products in the world market.

The Philippines is not alone in this fight as most countries all over the world have put in place their own energy conservation measures to ensure that they do not suffer so much from the adverse effects of high global oil prices.

BSP says oil prices remain a big threat

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday vowed further caution against oil-related inflationary pressures as the International Monetary Fund warned that high and volatile oil prices would still prevail in the coming years.

Experts from the IMF, which released a few chapters of the Fund's latest World Economic Outlook, said the global oil market would remain tight in the coming years, posing a risk to the global economy.

"It's going to be a rocky ride going forward with a wide band of uncertainty surrounding

high (oil) prices," said Raghu Rajan, IMF's economic counselor and director of research department.

"We're looking at a situation where we think that the shock that we've seen to prices is a permanent shock," said David Robinson, deputy director of the IMF's research department.

Robinson added that countries would thus need to adjust by allowing oil prices to pass through or otherwise boost demand, worsen the problem and trigger fiscal problems for governments.

The IMF projected the long-term oil prices to range between \$39 and \$56 a barrel and

did not consider as "outlandish" Goldman Sachs' expectation that it could even go to as high as \$100 a barrel.

"The market is tight, so large movements either in demand or in supply can have significant effects on price. Remember that even with the spike of the order of \$80 to \$100 a barrel, we are barely approaching the levels that we approached in 1979," Rajan said.

Being dependent on oil imports and with the government's fiscal constraints, the Philippines is seen as one of the countries in Asia likely to be worst hit by runaway oil prices.

BSP Deputy Governor Aman-

do Tetangco Jr. agreed that oil prices remained a big threat to the country's inflation rate and vowed to continue monitoring these supply-side risks.

The country's inflation rate peaked at 8.5 percent in March, the same rate in the previous month based on the updated 2000 consumer price index.

Tetangco said this was a global phenomenon that would affect all non-oil producing countries and that the domestic market would hopefully be able to absorb the impact of higher prices.

"It makes a difference if prices

BSP/B3



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BUSINESS

Meralco posted P2.6-B loss in '04

CA decision junking increase in unbundled rates takes its toll

Ayala unit eyes growth in electronics

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE INTEGRATED Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) of the Ayala group is seriously considering making new acquisitions this year, citing growth opportunities in the electronics sector, Delfin Lazaro, Ayala Corp. chief financial officer and treasurer, said in a briefing late Thursday.

The proposed investment comes ahead of Ayala's plans to look into other growth opportunities from a possible foreign public listing of IMI next year.

"Throughout history, we have always been turning to the capital markets," said Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Ayala Corp. president. "It is in the best interest of our stockholders since it enables us to realize value. Ultimately, we do feel our companies have a good track record."

"IMI is expanding its portfolio beyond its shores. There is a chance a listing would be good at some point."

Sources had confirmed the company was being groomed for a possible listing at tech-savvy markets such as the Stock Exchange of Singapore or the United States Nasdaq market.

Also, IMI may also be listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Lazaro meanwhile said that IMI was conducting due diligence on a particular company, but he declined to name the firm.

IMI is considering acquiring an Asian electronics company this year, sources at the firm said.

IMI is also setting aside roughly \$10 million for capital expenditures this year.

Zobel said 2004 was a banner year for IMI, which posted a record income of P1.2 billion, 93 percent higher than the previous year.

He added that the company gained from higher demand from key Japanese customers as the global PC market remained buoyant.

Zobel also said that with IMI's capacity almost fully used, it had begun to explore opportunities as part of its strategy to expand through acquisitions or strategic alliances.

Early this year, it completed the acquisition of the electronics assets of California-based Saturn Electronics & Engineering (Tustin) Inc., and its subsidiary, Saturn Electronics Philippines Inc.

Under the deal, IMI also acquired Saturn's assembly facilities in Cebu.

This allowed IMI to expand its capabilities for new product design and development, prototyping and manufacturing.

IMI is being primed as a regional player. IMI is a leading electronics manufacturing service (EMS) provider in the country.

It is controlled by the Ayala Corp., which owns 78.8 percent.

Local chemical firm Resins Inc., holds roughly 19.7 percent.

IMI is mainly into electronics services. Its manufacturing facility is in Laguna.

The bulk of its earnings come from the production of hard disk drives and optical disks.

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2004 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE ANNUAL AWARDS
No. 1 Elastomeric Paint (National)

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA Electric Co. of the Lopez family last year posted more than P2.6 billion in losses after it provided for some P9.8 billion in probable losses due to an unfavorable Court of Appeals decision.

"The significant change in Meralco's financial performance was mainly due to the provision for probable losses, for prudential reasons, in the event of a final and executory adverse decision on the unbundling rate case currently pending before the Supreme Court," the company said in a statement.

In the first nine months of 2004, the company posted a net income of P2.2 billion.

The Appeals court last year rendered void the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of Meralco's application to unbundle rates. The decision effectively nullified a rate increase of 17 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Of the approved 17-centavo rate hike, 8.35 centavos per kWh would have gone to the National Transmission Corp. as payment for transmission charges, and 8.65 centavos per kWh to Meralco as payment for distribution charges.

Meralco had filed a motion for reconsideration, but the appellate court early this year junked the petition as well.

Jesus Francisco, Meralco president, said a Supreme Court ruling upholding the CA's decision would have "dire implications and repercussions" on both the distribution utility's viability and its customers, particularly those consuming 100 kWh or less each month.

Under the unbundled rates set-up, customers using 100 kWh or less, or those under the lifeline category, are given discounts of 20 percent, 35 percent and 50 percent on their

electricity consumption.

Meralco currently has around 1.6 million lifeline customers as of December 2004, more than a third of the distribution utility's 4.2 million customers.

Francisco said the power distributor would continue to provide for the probable losses until the Supreme Court issues a final decision on the firm's rates unbundling case.

"The losses will probably continue because of this," Francisco said. "Despite the projected sales growth in 2005, which is not so significant, we'll continue to incur losses. We're hoping the Supreme Court will act on the petition as early as possible."

Had the provisions not been made, the Lopez firm would have registered a net income of at least P4 billion, more than three times as much as the 2003 profit of almost P1.3 billion, said Daniel Tagaza, Meralco senior vice president and chief financial officer.

Meralco's total sales increased by 3.5 percent last year to 24,660 gigawatt-hours (GWh), led by the 4.8-percent growth registered by the commercial sector.

Commercial sector growth was attributed to the retail trade and transport segments, the opening of new malls, the expansion of existing ones, and the completion and full operation of the Light Rail Transit Line 2.

The industrial sector grew by 3.1 percent to 7,003 GWh, in spite of the decline in the number of customers in this category.

The lowest growth came from the residential sector, posting an increase of only 2.5 percent to 8,742 GWh, despite the addition of 140,000 new customers.

Francisco said this was "disappointing" as Meralco expected the residential sector to be one of the growth leaders in 2004.

Belle Corp. earned P220M last year

PROPERTY developer Belle Corp. reported that its net income grew by 27 percent to P220 million last year, from P172.8 million the previous year due to brisk sales of its farm lots and Tagaytay club shares despite higher interest expenses.

In its financial report, the company said that its income from real estate operations surged to P221 million from P40.9 million.

Total operating expenses declined by 9 percent to P132 million from P145.5 million in 2003 after the company disposed of unnecessary fixed assets.

Net revenues from the sales of real estate and club shares climbed 86 percent to P512 million from P274.9 million in 2003, mainly due to the sales of lots in the company's newest residential development project, Plantation Hills at the Greenlands.

The first phase of its Plantation Hills project, called The Sanctuary at Plantation Hills, was launched during the second half of 2003, while the second and third phases, dubbed "The Ridge" and "The Meadows" were launched last year.

Construction of the next phases of Plantation Hills will continue this year.

Also this year, Belle is planning to start another upscale residential subdivision in the

Tagaytay Midlands.

Also, a 9-hole golf course will be added to the existing 18-hole golf course in the Midlands.

Belle expects to launch the project in 2006.

On the gaming side, existing investments will continue to be managed by Belle's various subsidiaries and associates, such as Belle Jai Alai Corp., Metro Manila Turf Club (MMTC), Lucky Star Network Communications Inc. and Pacific Online Systems Corp.

Belle is negotiating with various parties for the use of the horse racing franchise of the MMTC.

The Metro Manila Turf Club is a 70-percent owned subsidiary of Belle and has a congressional franchise for horse racing. Its 121-hectare property in Batangas is close to Belle's Tagaytay Midlands and Plantation Hills development.

Net earnings of Belle's subsidiaries totaled P56 million.

Belle's equitized earnings came from its 36-percent owned Highlands Prime Inc. (HPI), which posted a net income of P123.6 million, and its 43-percent owned associate Pacific Online Systems Corp., which registered P44.2 million in net earnings.

HPI, which is now under the group of mall tycoon Henry Sy, is engaged in real estate development in Tagaytay. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

TV ratings firms complete merger

THE MERGER of the AGB Group and the television audience measurement business of Nielsen Media Research has been completed and the new company, AGB Nielsen Media Research, is now operating in 30 countries.

The creation of AGB Nielsen Media Research in the Philippines will mean that the two existing and competing measurement panels will be combined and re-structured into a single TAM (television audience measurement) service that is expected to be operational by July 2005.

The regional director for AGB Nielsen Media Research, Malcolm Spry, said the combination of resources and expertise would bring substantial benefits to the advertising industry in the country.

"The introduction of new technologies in broadcasting will demand substantial investment in audience measurement technology in the years ahead," Spry said. "AGB Nielsen Media Research was created to ensure these investments could be supported and that our clients could be guaranteed

operating officer for

AGB Philippines.

AGB Nielsen Media Research is the leading television audience measurement company operating globally.

With more than 42,000 homes participating in its panels across 30 countries, it has more people meters installed than any other TAM provider.

AGB Nielsen Media Research's fully integrated proprietary system provides an independent and transparent au-

dience measurement system that television broadcasters, advertising agencies and advertisers worldwide rely on everyday.

AGB Nielsen Media Research's Corporate Support Center reflects the company's commitment to excellence in TAM.

Established as a repository of TAM know-how, it guides the research, development, production, maintenance and support of the proprietary TAM system and services worldwide.

CURRENCIES

April 8, 2005	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Country				
United States	Dollar	0.777665448	1.000000	54.7210
Japan	Yen	0.007159	0.009206	0.5038
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454234	1.870000	102.3283
Hongkong	Dollar	0.099714	0.128222	7.0164
Switzerland	Franc	0.644296	0.828500	45.3363
Canada	Dollar	0.63644	0.818398	44.7836
Singapore	Dollar	0.468812	0.602845	32.9883
Australia	Dollar	0.59756	0.768403	42.0478
Bahrain	Dinar	2.052828	2.652590	145.1524
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207372	0.266660	14.5919
Brunei	Dollar	0.467403	0.601034	32.8892
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019641	0.025256	1.3820
UAE	Dirham	0.211737	0.272272	14.8990
Euro	Euro	1	1.285900	70.3657
Argentina	Peso	0.269554	0.346620	18.9674
Brazil	REAL	0.299678	0.385356	21.0871
Denmark	Kroner	0.134226	0.172601	9.4449
India	Ruppee	0.017824	0.022920	1.2542
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204676	0.263193	14.4022
Mexico	Now Peso	0.069589	0.089485	4.8967
New Zealand	Dollar	0.55627	0.715308	39.1424
Norway	Kroner	0.122404	0.157399	8.6130
Pakistan	Ruppee	0.013101	0.016846	0.9218
South Africa	Rand	0.127277	0.163668	8.9560
Sweden	Kroner	0.000768	0.000988	0.0541
Syria	Pound	0.109219	0.140445	7.6853
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.014981	0.019264	1.0541
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.024682	0.031739	1.7368
		0.000362	0.000466	0.0255

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of April 8, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	27.5	28	27	28	550,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	48.5	50	1,179,500
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.76	1,040,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47.5	47	47	18,100
International Exch. Bank	18	18	18	18	6,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33	33	341,000
Philippine National Bank	31	31	30.5	31	48,000
Phil. Savings Bank	32	34	32	34	1,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	61,500
Security Bank Corp. 20.50	28	26.5	28	40,000	
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	3,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	285	300	285	285	380
Manulife Financial Corp.	2515	2515	2515	2515	460
Pcl Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	96,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	151	151	151	151	900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1720	1720	1720	1720	30
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	14.5	14.5	111,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.18	1.12	1.12	1.12	4,537,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	845	845	835	835	80,330
Ipsocle Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.3	28,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.05	0.047	0.05	3,100,000
Philipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.3	860,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1400	1400	1390	1395	110,450
Philweb Corp.	0.020	0.02	0.02	0.02	28,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITI					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18	18	18	17,700
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	183,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	1,942,000
Petron Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.35	3.4	4,173,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	100,000
Int'l Container Term' SV	7.2	7.2	7	7.1	1,808,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.52	220,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.65	2,940,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.45	808,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.40	3.4	3.4	3.4	50,000
Gilbey San Miguel Inc.	34	34	34	34	220,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	21,500
San Miguel Corp. A	56	57	56	57	26,300
San Miguel Corp. B	81	81	80.5	81	94,100
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	29.00	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.30	7.3	7.1	7.2	4,880,000
Aboltz Equity Ventures	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	548,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.10	2.12	2.08	2.1	458,000
OTHERS					
APC Group Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	2,930,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	15	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	6,717,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	470,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.15	3.15	1,807,000
Fluvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	93,000
Hi-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9	9	9	9	510,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	50	50.5	49.5	50	775,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.09	0.09	6,700,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	169,000
Macro Asia Corp.	1.90	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	3,245,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	20,140,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	150,000
SM Investments Corp.	246	246	241	245	942,960
South China Resources Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.165	540,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SER VICES					
Matsumushita Elec Phil Corp	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	20,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	240,000
Picop Resources Inc.	1.250	0.125	0.125	0.125	700,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	14.5	14.5	14	14.5	1,081,000
Plott (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	
Plott 10% Pref Series Bz	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	4	50	4	60	460,450
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.1	7.6	8	16,799,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	221,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	390,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	90,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	2600	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	5,260,000
Fluinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	5,775,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	190,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	1,530,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	6,770,000
MINING					
Aper Mining Co. Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	70
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	25,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	160,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	15,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	2,850,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.35	8,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	21,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	45,100,000
Omicor Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.075	174,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	950,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	700,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	34.5	35	34	34.5	240,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	21,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Pacific	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	10,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	1,000,000
Sinophyl Corp.	1900	0.195	0.185	0.185	5,890,000
	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	33,000,000

BIR eyes cut in VAT dues of delinquent taxpayers

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is considering a proposal to lower the required amount of VAT payments by tax delinquents who want to avail of its No-Audit Program (NAP).

Businessmen, especially those in the retail sector, have requested the BIR to ease the NAP criteria in order for them to qualify in the program.

A BIR official said most of them particularly requested that the required 3-percent effective VAT rate be reduced to either 2 or one-and-half percent.

"There are certain industries that said 3 percent is hard to attain," said Gerardo Flores Jr., executive director for the NAP. "We will consider their proposals (to lower the rates to as low as 1.5 percent)."

The BIR will conduct a review of the NAP rules after the April 15 deadline for the filing of income tax returns, Flores said.

Members of the Philippine Retailers Association are strongly opposed to the required VAT dues, Gerardo said.

According to department-store owners who are members

of the PRA, the required effective VAT rate of 3 percent is unrealistic because many retailers can only afford to impose minimal profit margins on the prices of their products due to tightening market competition and decreasing purchasing power of consumers, Flores said.

A 10-percent VAT (also called the output VAT) is imposed on the sales of a business. But the effective VAT rate, at which it is obliged to remit the taxes, would be lower than 10 percent if the business has input VAT credits to deduct.

The effective VAT rate is the difference between the output VAT imposed on a business and its input VAT credits. A business earns input VAT credits every time it purchases goods or services, whose prices include VAT.

To qualify for the NAP which exempts tax delinquents from audit or investigation, the net VAT paid by an applicant for a taxable year must be equal to the amount it remitted the previous year, and that the amount must not be less than 3 percent of its gross sales.

Michelle V. Remo

SFC, Chevron Texaco to match Korea firm's Malampaya bid

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Malampaya LLC has decided to match the bid of a Korean group led by LG International Corp. for about half of the Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp.'s stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in Palawan.

Spex and Chevron Texaco, each holding a 45-percent in the natural gas find, thus beat the April 7 deadline to indicate their intention to exercise their right to match the LG-led consortium's offer to buy 4.9 percent of PNOC EC's 10-percent stake in the project.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PNOC-EC said the two firms had finally made up their mind and would challenge the Korean consortium's offer.

"We have already advised LG International Corp. of said development, and we shall refer the matter soonest to the boards of (PNOC) and PNOC-EC, as well as the Privatization Council, for the way forward," said PNOC-EC general counsel and corporate secretary.

Privatizing PNOC-EC's interest in Malampaya was one of the conditions that the national government set in 1999 when it gave full guarantee for the \$175-million loan that PNOC-EC took out to purchase its 10-percent

stake in the project.

Considering the potential of the natural gas project, however, negotiations were conducted between the Departments of Energy and Finance to consider a compromise that would allow PNOC-EC to fulfill that condition while maintaining some stake in the consortium.

Malampaya is the Philippines' single-biggest private sector investment project at an estimated \$4.5 billion.

PNOC-EC president Eduardo Mañalac said in an earlier interview that part of the sale proceeds would be used to fund more exploration activities that would aid the country in reaching its goal of reaching a 60-percent energy self-sufficiency level by 2010.

"This will allow us to have funds to increase and sustain an honest-to-goodness exploration program, which could lead to discoveries of new oil and gas finds in the country," he said.

While not indicating how much PNOC-EC expected to fetch from the sale of its 4.9-percent stake in the natural gas project, he said the amount would definitely be "significantly better than the price we bought it for."

It cost PNOC-EC roughly \$175 million to purchase its 10-percent stake in 1999, so Mañalac said the sale of its 4.9-percent share now should yield somewhere within the vicinity of \$100 million or even higher.

DOF opposes hike in corporate income tax rate

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is cool to the Senate plan of raising the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent.

The Senate wants to increase the corporate tax dues instead of raising the value-added tax rate.

The DOF stands firm on its proposal that raising the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent, together with the lifting of several VAT exemptions, would yield the bigger revenue for the strapped national government.

The government agency, believes it would still be more practical to impose a higher VAT rate.

The suggestion from the Senate committee on ways and means, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, to raise the corporate income tax rate has already elicited complaints from the business sector.

Business groups said that raising the corporate income tax rate would further hurt the already anemic competitiveness of local industries against their foreign counterparts.

Unlike the proposal to raise the corporate income tax rate, the plan to hike the VAT rate is more acceptable to the business community.

But militant groups are opposing the VAT-rate hike, describing it as an anti-poor measure because it would affect consumers.

The present 32-percent corporate income tax rate in the Philippines is higher than the 30 percent in Thailand, 22 percent in Singapore and 28 percent in Malaysia.

On the other hand, the 10-percent VAT rate in the Philippines is one of the lowest in Asia.

Michelle V. Remo

LRTA seeks new capital, says P3B not enough

By Michelle V. Remo

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), one of the losing government-owned and -controlled corporations, has asked the national government for infusion of new capitalization to undertake infrastructure enhancements.

The LRTA has already submitted the request with the Department of Finance, its head agency. But the DOF is still re-

viewing the merits of the request before endorsing it to Congress. Infusion of capitalization to a GOCC requires legislation.

"[The LRTA's] authorized capitalization has already been depleted, so there must be some adjustments," said a ranking finance official.

The last time the capitalization of the LRTA was adjusted was in 1982. Executive Order 830 issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos increased its authorized cap-

ital from P500 million to P3 billion.

According to Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, the DOF will have to study how much new funds the government should provide the LRTA, as the government still needs to resolve several issues concerning the state-owned firm.

She cited the issue on whether the railways where the LRTA cars run should be treated as an infrastructure owned by the GOCC or the national government. What

the LRTA clearly owns are the cars, but the railways pose questions of ownership.

The issue on what particular infrastructure is owned by the LRTA and the government has to be resolved before the latter can decide how much capitalization it should infuse to the LRTA.

This year, the LRTA expects to post P1.3 billion in losses, contributing to the P103 billion in losses that GOCCs are estimated to record for 2005.

Rural banks open P500-M credit line with Quedancor

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE RURAL Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) will engage in a multi-investment program for the agriculture and fishery sectors, allowing it to open a new P500-million credit line with agriculture-lender Quedancor (Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp.).

According to Senen Glorioso, RBAP president, the program will allow RBAP's 725 member-banks to purchase promissory notes from Quedancor.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has been enforcing the Agri-Agra Law requiring banks to lend to agriculture and fishery trades.

The credit line with Quedancor will make it easier for the rural banks to comply with law.

"This is the first time that the RBAP will have this arrangement with Quedancor," Glorioso said.

Nelson Buenaflor, Quedancor president and CEO, said in a separate interview that the promissory notes from the farmer and fishermen clients would be covered by a sovereign guarantee and would be slapped a 10 to 11

percent interest rate by the rural banks.

The investment arrangement between RBAP and Quedancor will be signed this month.

Quedancor, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, has been the credit conduit of private financial institutions, such as the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine Veterans Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank and the Equitable-PCI Bank.

Quedancor recently obtained the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to auction off some P1.5 billion worth of long-term bonds this year to finance its loan funding requirements.

Buenaflor said, the 3-year, 4-year, and 5-year bonds would be slapped similar rates as the prevailing long term government issued treasury bills.

"Proceeds from the bond issuance will be used for our loan base expansion and to finance pending loan applications worth P2.8 billion until the second quarter of 2005," Buenaflor said.

Quedancor initially will issue P1 billion worth of bonds through the United Coconut Planters Bank.

BSP says oil prices . . .

From page B1

will remain high or going higher. If oil prices stabilize at a higher level, the additional inflation will dissipate over time," Tetangco said.

"I think that the market will determine this. If prices rise too high, either demand will tend to weaken or alternative sources of energy will be tapped. Users will also be prompted to start conserving," Tetangco said.

Tetangco, who will become the next BSP Governor effective this July, said the central monetary institution would continue to watch the impact of oil prices closely.

"What is important is that it does not feed into inflationary expectations. If everybody is expecting prices to rise, that could lead to more inflation and could become well-entrenched," he said.

For the first time in nearly five years, the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas decided on Thursday to raise its key overnight rates by 25 basis points to ward off fur-

ther inflationary pressures from skyrocketing global oil prices.

The overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was raised to 7 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate to 9.25 percent as a "preemptive move." These rates were last adjusted upward in October 2000. Since July 2003 until the MB's policy setting yesterday, these rates were kept steady at 6.75 percent for the overnight borrowing and 9 percent for the overnight lending rate.

The IMF cited major reasons why it expected oil supply to remain tight in the coming years:

- Oil demand will continue to grow robustly because of the improvement in standards of living in developing countries, such as China, resulting in an explosion in transport demand, and

- Investment has been subdued in the past because of high expected volatility in prices and also due to regulatory impediments to investment.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawag
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WHO condemns 'massacre' of pregnant women, infants

GENEVA—The World Health Organization on Thursday condemned as scandalous the deaths of more than half a million mothers a year during pregnancy or childbirth, saying they could be easily avoided.

In its annual World Health Report 2005, focusing on the health of newborn children and mothers, the WHO urged countries to invest more in training for health staff and midwives.

"There are half a million women who die during pregnancy or during birth. It's a scandal," said Marie-Paule Kieny, head of the WHO's family health department.

Each year, 530,000 women die in childbirth and almost 11 million children don't live to see their fifth birthday, the report said. More than three million babies are stillborn, while four million newborns die within the first days or weeks of their lives, it said.

There are 136 million births a year worldwide.

Avoiding 'massacre'

"We know what needs to be done to avoid this massacre: action is simple and not so costly," Kieny told journalists.

Almost nine-tenths of deaths among children under 5 are due to just six conditions, including acute neo-natal conditions such as premature birth, asphyxia at birth and infections (37 percent), pneumonia (19 percent), diarrhea (18 percent), malaria (8 percent), measles and HIV/AIDS.

Most of those conditions could be easily treated with rehydration therapy, antibiotics, antimalarial drugs, vitamins or minerals, greater breastfeeding, immunization or skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth, the report said.

Newborn deaths could be reduced substantially if all babies were washed, warmed and fed within an hour of their birth, Kieny said.

Moms dying

Less than two-thirds of women in developing countries give birth with the



ACCORDING to the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, 10 Filipino mothers die daily due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth. Through its Ligas Buntis program, the Department of Health seeks to make pregnancies safer.

help of qualified assistance, a proportion that drops to less than one-third in the poorest countries, according to the WHO.

Kieny said an uncontrolled two-hour postnatal hemorrhage was enough to kill a mother.

More than 18 million induced abortions a year were carried out in unsafe conditions, either by unskilled people or amid poor medical conditions, leading to the deaths of 68,000 women a year, the WHO said.

It said every woman should have professional care when giving birth and medical attention should continue through the first few weeks of a child's life.

Having a skilled birth attendant, such

as a midwife, present at childbirth is among the key measures considered necessary for the United Nations to achieve its health-related goals aimed at fighting poverty in the developing world.

Massive investment

"Most of the deaths and disabilities attributable to childbirth are avoidable, because the medical solutions are well known," the report said. "Immediate and effective professional care during and after labor and delivery can make the difference between life and death for both women and their newborns."

This requires massive investment in health systems, particularly to employ

more health professionals, which requires long-term political commitment that many decision makers are reluctant to commit to, the report said.

Little research has been carried out into whether low standards of maternal health care hamper economic development, but "everything points in that direction," said Dr. Wim van Lerberghe, chief editor of the report.

Under the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, countries are committed to cutting down maternal mortality by three-quarters, and child mortality by two-thirds, by 2015.

"On current trends, some parts of the world won't reach the goals for 150

Why moms die in pregnancy, childbirth

UP TO 15 percent of pregnant women, or 20 million women each year, in all population groups experience potentially fatal complications.

The following direct complications account for more than 70 percent of maternal deaths:

- **Hemorrhage (25 percent).** It is the most common cause of maternal death. If a mother's life is to be saved, it generally requires treatment within two hours at a health facility able to provide blood transfusions and perform other clinical measures.

- **Infection or sepsis (15 percent).** It is a common result of poorly performed abortions and unsterile procedures during delivery. It can also result from prolonged labor, when a woman's membranes have ruptured and she has not delivered within 24 hours. Serious infection usually results unless prevented by antibiotics;

- **Unsafe abortion (13 percent).** Abortion performed with unclean instruments and in unsanitary conditions is the frequent result of unwanted pregnancy. Where abortion is illegal, women are often reluctant to seek medical care even if they begin to hemorrhage or show signs of infection after undergoing the procedure, and consequently may die.

- **Eclampsia (12 percent).** High blood pressure can lead to eclampsia (convulsions) during pregnancy, which can lead to death if not treated in its early stages. It can be detected and its complications prevented by competent prenatal care.

- **Obstructed labor (8 percent).** This requires treatment at a hospital or an equivalent facility that can perform operative delivery.

Source: World Health Organization 2005, World Health Organization

God(s) genes: Coding for something

(Conclusion)

"I KNOW from experience that some readers will ignore this caution, so I'll repeat it for good measure. This book is about whether God genes exist, not about whether there is a God."

So says molecular biologist Dean Hamer in the first chapter of his book, "The God Gene: How Faith Is Hardwired into Our Genes."

The many caveats strewn throughout the book should alert the reader that continued reading is akin to walking through a field of land mines, although some are easier to detect than others. One such incident is the story involving the colleague who pointedly asks Hamer if there is only one God gene, to which he replies that he meant to say "a" rather than "the" God gene.

He notes that the gene he and his team have identified, and which is the focal point of this whole book, isn't working alone. In fact, he suggests there might be as many as 50 genes, although they haven't as yet been identified. If this is the case, why didn't he call the book "A God gene" rather than "The God gene"?

Bad science, theology

Hamer argues that man is genetically programmed—he uses the term "instinct"—for spirituality, which he defines as a collection of beliefs, feelings and experiences relating to feeling connected to the universe. He equates this need to be at one with all creation with the need man feels to seek out God (the capitalization is his), which is itself problematic.

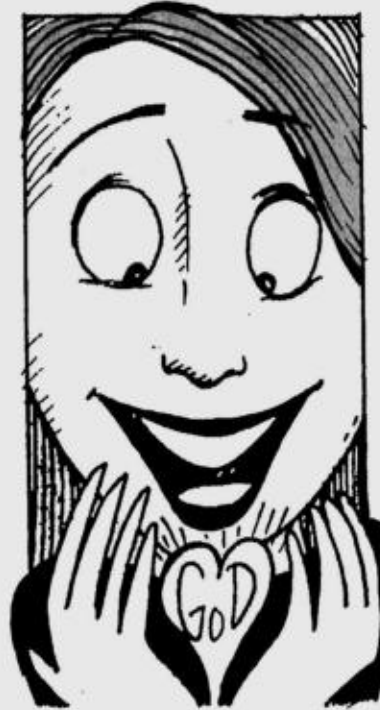
This is, as one reviewer puts it, a case of "bad science and bad theology combined."

Hamer begins by saying that spirituality, a term which means many things to many people, is a state of mind that can be quantified. He does so in an experiment involving same sex siblings with the help of a self-transcendence scale developed by a psychiatrist named Robert Cloninger.

The self-transcendence scale, Hamer notes, isn't based on any belief in a god (lower caps mine), prayer, or other religious practices but rather on how connected one feels to the cosmos. If God is

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon



not the end goal of man's genetic programming, which is what Hamer's use of the self-transcendence scale would imply, then how can he use this data to search for "a," or even, "the" God gene?

Hallucinogen

Chapter 4 discusses how Hamer and his team took the data from the study above and combined it with research by another geneticist who was studying the genetic traits involved in certain behaviors. This was done to isolate and identify the God gene VMAT2, which is a monoamine.

Monoamines are neurotransmitters that play a role in determining a person's moods. Hamer spends most of one chap-

ter to a discussion of the role a monoaminergic hallucinogen, called psilocybin, played in helping many college students experience a mystical experience while attending a Good Friday service nearly 40 years ago. One of those students, now a religious minister who counsels others against using drugs, says the drug-induced vision helped him become who he is today, by making religious beliefs seems more concrete.

Hamer concludes by saying that one evolutionary benefit of passing on the God gene through generations is not susceptibility to drug-induced visions, but rather that it makes people optimists.

Science, religion

In the final chapter of the book, Hamer discusses the age-old enemies: science, which requires factual evidence, and religion, which requires belief in what cannot be physically proven.

He argues that the existence of a God gene shows that science and religion actually complement each other. He says the genetic trait that makes man instinctively long to be one with the universe spiritually is what gives people faith, which provides comfort in troubled times and gives them the physical strength not just to endure but to move forward.

Jonathon Keats' description of genetic experiments to find out if God was evolutionarily closer to a fruit fly or algae was a conceptual art work; that it provoked comment from the scientific community was just a bonus. Hamer, on the other hand, is as an established scientist trying to reconcile what he knows with what he believes. Sadly, he doesn't seem to have read what he himself wrote.

It seems only fair to wrap up this story about two very different quests for God with a third.

This one involves a woman who died in North Carolina and left part of her estate to God. As the will could not be read unless all the beneficiaries were present, the local sheriff was sent to find God.

He reported: "After due and diligent search, God cannot be found in Cherokee County."

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com



MILD iron deficiency can disrupt the foundation for healthy mother-infant interaction, a study on 85 women found.

Low iron may be barrier to mother-baby bonding

WASHINGTON—New mothers who don't get enough iron are more likely to have a difficult time bonding with their babies than women who take their vitamins, according to a new study.

Earlier studies have shown that anemic women may experience postpartum depression and moderate iron deficiency can slow down thinking and memory. The Penn State study is the first to look at how iron deficiency affects new mothers' ability to tune in to their children emotionally.

"Our new results suggest that the effects of mild iron deficiency...can disrupt the solid foundation that is established by healthy mother-infant interactions," said the study's lead author, Dr. Laura Murray-Kolb.

Women who forgo vitamin supplements commonly experience iron deficiency after childbirth, the researchers said.

Less sensitive

Researchers videotaped 85 women in South Africa interacting with their in-

fants 10 weeks after childbirth. In that group, 64 were identified as mildly iron-deficient; 31 had no deficiency.

Half of the iron-deficient women were then given supplements and after nine months, all were again videotaped with their children.

Researchers who analyzed the video concluded that the mildly iron-deficient mothers who got no supplements were less sensitive to their babies' cues and scored lower on measures of emotional availability than did the women in the other two groups.

At 9 months, the babies of the three groups of mothers also behaved differently, with the toddlers of the mildly iron-deficient moms less responsive and less involved with their mothers, the study said.

"New mothers should be aware of their iron status, which we now know affects the child as well as the mother," Murray-Kolb said in a statement. "Iron deficiency is easy to correct and could be a big part of postpartum problems with mother-child interactions." **Reuters**

Men urged to consult doctors more often

By Tessa R. Salazar

ERECTILE dysfunction, by itself a distressing development in an aging male's sexual health, could mean more bad news for the sufferer's overall physical health.

According to the Philippine Society of the Study for Aging Male (Phissam), erectile dysfunction (ED) affects approximately 130 million men aged 40 and older worldwide.

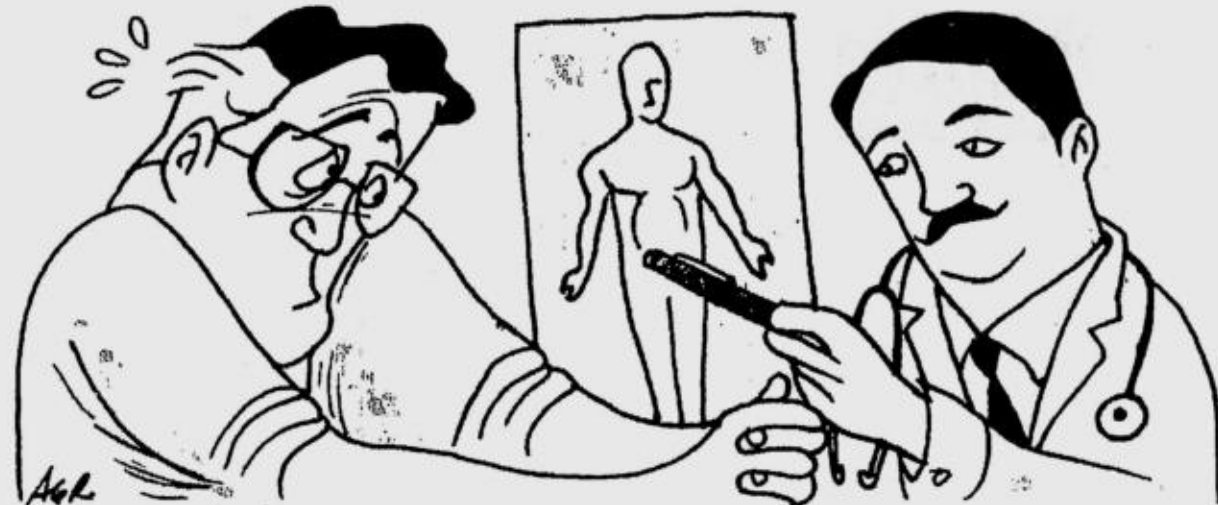
ED is the repeated inability of the male to achieve or maintain an erection for sexual intercourse.

Phissam observed that other diseases may be concomitant to ED, which means that ED deserves more medical attention than what it is currently receiving.

Experts say ED can be caused by diabetes, kidney disease, chronic alcoholism, multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, vascular diseases, or neurological disorders.

Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes III, president of Phissam, said sexual health is important even for aging couples, as this is associated with overall health and happiness.

Reyes spoke during a recent press briefing on the Men's Health Check program of the pharmaceutical company Pfizer. The program, which involves conducting educational campaigns and seminars in selected barangays nationwide, encourages Filipino men to consult their doctors regularly and to take an active role in improving their health.



During the briefing, a study by the Second World Congress on the Aging Male was presented where it was indicated that women, who generally saw their doctors three times more often than men, outlived men by five years.

The life expectancy of Filipino males was 67.2 years in 2003, according to National Statistics Office data. For females it was 72.5.

If men receive the short end of the life expectancy stick, it may even be worse with ED. Reyes observed that about 80 percent of men with ED experience varying degrees of relationship troubles with their partners because of the emotional and mental stress caused by erection problems. As a result, men tend to avoid intimate situations with their partners.

Reyes said the medical profession, for its part, could help unburden Filipino ED patients of this awkwardness by educating Filipino doctors on the proper way of conducting a "review of systems" among

Macho culture

New drugs that act directly on ED have motivated many men to finally open up to their doctors, Reyes said. Still, the "macho" culture makes men uncomfortable in discussing erection problems.

Reyes said the medical profession, for its part, could help unburden Filipino ED patients of this awkwardness by educating Filipino doctors on the proper way of conducting a "review of systems" among

their male patients.

"Let's say I start by [asking about] your eyes. From there I go down to [asking about] other parts like the heart, down to the kidneys. Then go down [and ask] about that 'special part' of the male," he said.

Filipino men prefer this "slow and gentle," "beating around the bush" approach, he said.

In other societies, Reyes said, it wouldn't be unusual for patients to approach their doctors and say up front that they have an erection problem.

"But Filipino patients wouldn't do that," he said.

Reyes encouraged doctors to be alert and take special note of their male patients' body language, especially when the topic gets nearer to that sensitive aspect of the patients' sexual health. The doctor may have to help the patient bring his problems out in the open by asking the right follow-up questions.

Sometimes, he said, all that is needed is the right specialist, such as a urologist, to talk with the patient.

Reyes also stressed that proper sex education during adolescence would be an important first step toward breaking the culture of silence among Filipino male adults. Reyes said the latter elementary school years would be the ideal age to educate students about human sexuality.

Vitamin E out, low-dose aspirin in for women

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MILLIONS of women are taking vitamin E daily in the hope that it could help prevent heart attacks and possibly strokes. For years, vitamin E has been known as the vitamin that's good for the heart and brain. Latest data presented during the recent American College of Cardiology showed that vitamin E has no beneficial effect on heart disease prevention.

Findings of the Women's Health Study (WHS), presented by Prof. Julie Buring of the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, do not support the long-held hypothesis that vitamin E can help retard the progression of atherosclerosis, which is the progressive narrowing of blood vessels due to accumulation of fat deposits and other blood elements.

Data from previous clinical trials were also not encouraging, but vitamin E was given the benefit of the doubt that it might not have been given long enough in these studies. In the WHS, the mean follow-up period was 10.2 years, which makes it the longest trial on vitamin E. The duration is also more than sufficient to be able to show meaningful clinical benefits, if any.

Biggest study

The WHS is also the biggest study evaluating the cardiovascular effects of vitamin E. It involved 39,876 women health professionals 45 years and older, and they were given 600 IU of vitamin E every other day. These women had no previous history of heart or brain disease. The parameters assessed were the rate of occurrence of heart attacks, strokes and deaths related to these problems.

When the study was initiated more than 10 years ago, the investigators were inclined to be-



lieve that vitamin E might have significant clinical benefits on the heart and brain.

Vitamin E was hypothesized to inhibit the oxidation of low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or the bad type of cholesterol, which plays a major role in atherosclerosis.

Manufacturers of vitamin E welcomed this landmark trial, confident that it would yield positive results. They even supplied the vitamin E for the trial.

But that's what's amazing with the science of medicine; theory alone does not make sense unless results of large clinical trials support it. And yesterday's fact may today be shown to be nothing more than just a promising hypothesis.

Aspirin

Professor Buring also presented the results of the evaluation of low-dose aspirin given at 100 mg every other day in the same clinical trial. Previous trials did not support the use of aspirin in women with no history of coronary heart disease or cerebrovascular (brain) disease.

In this study, it was shown that aspirin could help prevent strokes but not heart attacks. However, in healthy women 65 years and older, maintenance on low-dose aspirin every other day significantly reduced the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

This is the biggest and most impressive data to date showing that women, just like men, can also benefit from the heart attack and stroke-preventive effects of low-dose aspirin. The incidence of side effects, mainly stomach irritation and minor bleeding, is relatively low, which makes it a small price to pay considering the remarkable benefits it could bring.

For elderly women, doctors can now recommend the intake of aspirin unless there are strong contraindications to its use, such as active ulcers or serious allergies to the drug.

In younger women, it would be prudent to consult with a physician to assess the risk-benefit of taking aspirin.

Professor Buring, however, stressed that a healthy diet, within the setting of a healthy lifestyle and control of other known risk factors for cardiovascular disease, remains a woman's best approach to heart disease prevention.

The WHS was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Cancer Institute. It had a separate research assessing the effect of vitamin E and aspirin on cancer prevention, the results of which will be presented soon.

Solution to number puzzle

READER Beethoven Cheng has this puzzle: What is the smallest decimal number, composed only of 1s and 0s, which is divisible by 225? (Eureka, April 2, 2005) To date more than 100 readers have sent solutions.

The first reader to explain all possible solutions correctly is Perry Esquerro [perry.esquerro@gmail.com]. He will receive an autographed copy of one of my recent books. He writes:

"Here's a straight answer: 225 is 25×9 . So the decimal number we seek must leave no remainder when divided by 25 or by 9. Because the decimal number must be both divisible by 25 and made up only of 0's and 1's, the last two digits must be 00. Because of the divisibility by 9 requirement, the number of 1's in the decimal representation must appear 9 times, or 18 times, or 27 times, etc. The smallest decimal number that satisfies all these requirements is: 11111111100.

"Note that the problem did not state that the decimal number has to be positive, which means 0 can be the smallest nonnegative number. Also, the problem did not state that the decimal number cannot be negative. In this case, there's no smallest decimal number."

Perry also writes: "For the Anonymous Gentleman (April 5, 2005): 'Calculus Made Easy' exists. The first edition, which appeared in 1910, was written by Silvanus P. Thompson. About five years ago, a new edition of the book with Martin Gardner as coauthor came out. Garner added preliminary chapters and an appendix containing recreational puzzles involving calculus. Another book which I saw in PowerBooks a few years ago is David Berlinski's 'A Tour of the Calculus.' These books may help kindle your interest in calculus."

Another solution

Ivan Quentin [try1cmor@yahoo.com] has a similar, al-

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



though not exact way, of getting the solution:

"Looking at the first few multiples of 225: 225, 450, 675, 900, 1125, 1350, 1575, 1800, we note that the last two digits repeat in a cycle of 4: 25, 50, 75, 00. The multiples ending in 00 will be the only ones that are candidates for the solution to the problem.

"Also, the solution must be divisible by 900 since all multiples of 225 ending in 00 are divisible by 900. Now we consider the multiples of 900 noting that all multiples of 900 are 0 mod 9.

"So the smallest number containing all 1's and 0's that is a multiple of 900 must contain nine 1's and must therefore be: 11,111,111,100. This is also the smallest number divisible by 225 consisting of all 1's and 0's. Inserting any more 1s or 0s would only make the number bigger."

Popular solution

Number theory was a popular explanation for many readers. Emerson Uy [emerson_uy@yahoo.com] expounds:

"Let N be the required number. Then $N = 225k$ for some positive integer k. Note that k must be even since if it's odd, then the last digit of N would be 5. So we write $N = (225)(2j) = 450j$ for some positive integer j. Similarly, j must be even, otherwise N would have a 5 as its tens digit. Hence we write $N = (450)(2i) = (900)(i)$ for some positive integer i. N is a number that is divisible by 900, which means it's divisible by both 9 and 100.

"For a number M to be divisible by 9, the sum of its digits must be equal to 9. Since N con-

sists of only 1's and 0's, this number M must be 111, 111, 111. But N must also be divisible by 100, i.e., its last two digits must be 0. Hence we arrive at our final answer, $N = 11, 111, 111, 100$."

Computer program

Some readers, such as Levi Monteverde [levijonesm@yahoo.com], used the computer as a tool. Although not as elegant as pure brainwork, it can be invaluable. He explains:

"I wrote a C program that simply checked each succeeding multiple of 225 (starting at 225) if this multiple is composed of 1's and 0's only. It took about 30 seconds for the program to come up with the answer on my home PC. It's a 'brute force' solution, but I hope it counts. I was really intrigued by the puzzle, because if the solution was 'small' enough (which it happened to be), then it was the perfect occasion to use a PC's number-crunching capabilities. However, if the solution happened to be hundreds of digits long, my program wouldn't work anymore. I would have to use special data structures to represent hundred-digit numbers, which is a rather lengthy exercise. My program would work only if the answer required 17 digits or less. In fact, it required 11 digits."

Congratulations to the other readers who got the correct solution: Arnel Amparo [ajam-pano@yahoo.com], Edith Repane [edrepane@yahoo.com], Russell B. Dobbryn [rdbdobbryn@yahoo.com], John Adrian [johnadrian@gmail.com], Dta [pc_list2@yahoo.com], Ross Simeon [rc.simeon@maxima.com.ph], Fabienne Michelle Yu [fabienne_michelle_yu@yahoo.com], Kurt Yu [kurtyu@yahoo.com], Dominique Cimafranca [Dominique_cimafranca@yahoo.com] and Vincent Starjammer [vincent_ochavo@yahoo.com].

French math student sets world record

PARIS—A 24-year-old French student claimed a world record on Wednesday after he became the first person to figure out the 13th root of a 200-digit number by mental arithmetic alone.

Alexis Lemaire, who is studying for a master's degree in computer studies at the University of Reims, eastern France, took 48 minutes and 51 seconds to arrive at the 16-figure answer.

The competition was overseen by a mathematician and a public bailiff to ensure that the answer was right and that Lemaire had only used his own brainpower to get there. Use of a computer, calculator and even a pencil and paper were not allowed.

In December, Lemaire set a world speed record of 3.625 seconds for finding the 13th

root of a 100-digit number. The previous record of 11.8 seconds had been held by a 38-year-old German, Gert Mittring.

The 100-digit record used to feature in the "Guinness Book of Records," but was axed in 2002.

Billions of permutations

Lemaire described the 200-digit task as "the most difficult challenge in mental arithmetic in history," as there were a potential 400,000 billion permutations in the answer.

He said his calculation method would be published next month in the French magazine Sciences et Avenir (Science and Future), which hosted the event.

The 13th root is a number that must be multiplied by itself 13 times in order to equal a given value. **AFP**

Sagip-Buhay raises funds for charity patients

SEVEN years ago, Theresa B., then a young teenager, could hardly walk a few steps without being short of breath. She was diagnosed to have rheumatic heart disease with severe involvement of her heart valves requiring surgery. Her family was too poor to afford the costly surgery.

But with the assistance of Sagip-Buhay Medical Foundation Inc., she had a successful surgery and is

now able to do what most young adults do. She is also now working and able to help her family.

I of many

Theresa is just one of many who have benefited from the Sagip-Buhay Medical Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the Department of Medicine of the UP-PGH Medical Center. It is sponsoring its annual Golf Classic on April

27 at the Riviera Golf and Country Club to raise additional funds for charity patients in need of various life-saving procedures at the medical wards of the hospital.

This annual event has been the traditional fundraiser for the department. "All earnings support the charity services of the department; all contributions go directly to patient care," said Dr. Rod Sy, foundation chair. He is appeal-

ing for any assistance or donation to the project that can make a difference in the lives of its indigent beneficiaries.

Donors can avail of any of the following packages: corporate (P250,000), lifesaver P100,000, rescuer P50,000, and individual (P3,500).

For inquiries, call 526-4372 or e-mail medicine_pgh@cm.upm.edu.ph.

Lamoiyan hosts dental symposium

LAMOYAN Corp. once again became the venue for another informative gathering among Filipino dentists. In line with the company's commitment to support the Philippine Dental Association, Lamoiyan conducted the second Hapee Gumtect dental symposium participated in by PDA chapters in Antipolo, Pasig, Marikina, Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong.

Held at the Lamoiyan auditorium, the symposium provided participants with scientific updates on oral lesions and on making good oral care affordable for Filipinos. Dr. Georgina Palmario shared her expertise on the topic "Immunohistochemistry of Oral Premalignant to Malignant Lesions" while Dr. Manuel Valles-teros, Philippine Pediatric Dental Society president, discussed "Affordable Fluoride Toothpaste."

The symposium was held in observance of February as national dental health month. For every

symposium, Lamoiyan will be working with a different chapter to further promote teamwork among PDA members.

Meantime, Lamoiyan managing consultant Ding Salvador said the company is dedicated in helping advance the local dental profession by supporting the continuing medical education of dentists. He said Lamoiyan is offering its facility in Parañaque City as the venue for possible monthly symposiums. According to him,

this is one way for Lamoiyan to help advance the cause of oral health care.

Lamoiyan has been promoting good oral care in the country since it launched Hapee Toothpaste 17 years ago. Hapee offers an effective but affordable alternative to maintaining healthy teeth and gums. Although the brand is 20 percent more affordable than the leading brands, Hapee boasts of meeting world-class quality standards.

People, Events & Products

ENT experts recognize Bactidol for throat and oral care

TAKING their partnership further, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare's oral antiseptic for sore throat, Hexetidine Bactidol and the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) rein-

forced their commitment to promote healthier throats among Filipinos.

"Since Filipinos are known to be hardworking individuals, they usually do not let anything get in the way of their work. Because of this and their neglect for oral health, they develop sore throat and other mouth problems. We are happy that through our partnership with Hexetidine Bactidol, we are also given a chance to aggressively pursue the importance of oral care and eventually make a difference in the lives of people," shares

PSO-HNS president Dr. Cesar Villafuerte.

Now bearing the seal of recognition from PSO-HNS, consumers are assured of Hexetidine Bactidol's therapeutic effect that even doctors and dentists trust, aside from giving long-lasting relief of sore throat.

"Having throat and mouth problems compromises performance and hampers the ability to communicate effectively. That's why we understand that people need a partner in taking care of their throats and we're proud that the ENT experts themselves recognized Hexetidine Bactidol for this purpose. Being recognized by the PSO-HNS proves that Hexetidine Bactidol's efficacy as a mouth problem and sore throat reliever is something consumers truly can rely on," Pfizer's oral care category head Gretchen Borja said.



ENT experts recognize Hexetidine Bactidol for its effectiveness in giving long-lasting relief of sore throat. In photo are PSO-HNS director Dr. Randy

Canal, Pfizer's oral care category head Gretchen Borja and PSO-HNS president Dr. Cesar Villafuerte Jr. signing the Memorandum of Agreement.



JS UNITRADE RECEIVES TOP 12 TAXPAYERS AWARD FROM BIR

JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., the company responsible in providing best value products to Filipino families whose popular brands include Prokids Premium Baby Diapers, EQ and EQ Dry Baby Diapers, Dr. P Adult Diapers, and Charmee Feminine Protection products, was recently conferred with one of the Top 12 Taxpayers Award given by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) RDO #27 to diligent and re-

sponsible taxpayers. The event was held last March at the Caloocan Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Headquarters. In photo are (from left) Manny Collado, JS Unitrade's finance controller who received the award; Gerry Florendo, BIR's Assistant Commissioner; John Sy, president of the Caloocan Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce; and Nelson Traje, Revenue District Officer, Caloocan City.



DR. P. WINS AWARD AGAIN

Dr. P, the no. 1 undisputed adult diaper brand again was chosen and acknowledged for its exemplary contribution and was awarded the Outstanding Brand of Adult Diapers for the recently concluded Annual National Consumers Excellence Awards given by Parangal ng Bayan Foundation Inc. The Parangal ng Bayan Foundation Inc. is the country's biggest organization which gives due recognition to outstanding Filipinos and world-class achievers from various fields of endeavor and excellent manufacturers, products and services that contribute to the economic progress of the Philippines. Photo shows (from left) Hon. Associate Justice Cancio Garcia of the Supreme Court; Rica Renee Reyes, assistant brand manager, JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc and Sis Vickie Dizon, overall chair, Parangal ng Bayan Foundation Inc. Dr. P Adult Diapers is exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc.

Growing up milk with cereals for growing up kids

AS ALL mothers know, most toddlers are picky with food. Their growing curiosity in exploring their surroundings distracts them from their regular meals. Preschoolers also need extra nourishment as they become more active and tend to show little interest in table food. In many instances, kids miss out on important nutrients like carbohydrates and fiber found in vegetable and grains.

To combat this problem, Dumex has formulated a growing up milk that contains cereals. So in one drink, growing kids can have all the healthful goodness of milk and the benefits of carbohydrates and fiber from cereals.

This product has been launched by Dumex in Singapore and Malaysia where Dumex is a market leader. This innovation is being brought to the Philippines to help children get optimal nutrition.

"Dugro 1Plus and 3Plus growing up milk with Fine Cereals contain high quality corn and wheat, making them a great source of complex carbohydrates for added energy. Research studies have also revealed that complex carbohydrates are less fattening since the fiber in cereals creates a feeling of fullness longer," says Raffy Santos, senior product manager of Dumex Philippines Inc.

Fiber is known to promote a healthy tummy, prevents constipation and aids in calcium absorption. It is also a natural fat absorber, which explains why cereals can help reduce the risk of

heart ailments and even some forms of cancer.

These products also contain Maxi-Q + DHA, the system of nutrients in all Dumex products, for the optimum physical and mental development of young children.

Dugro 1Plus Growing-up with Fine Cereals come in 350g tins (P192) and 750g tins (P363) while Dugro 3Plus Growing-up milk with Fine Cereals are available in 350g tins for P181 and 750g tins for P342.

Dugro is the new brandname for the Dumex range of growing up milks under its Precision Nutrition range. Besides its infant and follow-on formulas, Dumex Precision Nutrition range consists of Dugro 1Plus and Dugro 3Plus growing up milks in 3 flavors - yummy honey, creamy vanilla and delicious chocolate. Dugro with fine cereals is the latest addition to this range, which has won over many Filipino mothers and children since its launch 5 years ago.

Dugro 1Plus Growing-up milk and Dugro 3Plus Growing-up milk are specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of children ages 1-3 and 3-6 respectively, two glasses per day serving provide an excellent source of the important nutrients in accordance with the US Dietary Reference Intakes (USDRIs).

All Dumex milk products are available in leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.



PIONEER POINTE READY TO START CONSTRUCTION

Filinvest Alabang Inc (FAI) recently awarded the construction management contract to TCGI Engineers for Pioneer Pointe, a 28-storey residential condominium along Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City. Pioneer Pointe offers the advantages of living in a central location, making an ideal residence or income-generating investment. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the

project were held recently to mark the official start of construction. For inquiries, interested parties may call 687-1155, 687-1177 or visit www.pioneer-pointe.com. Present during the contract signing were: (from left) FAI project team leader Dom Valdecañas, FAI vice president Michael Gotianun, TCGI president Virgilio Maderazo and TCGI project director Joey Ortega.



SAFE SEA SUNBLOCK EFFECTIVE AGAINST JELLYFISH STINGS

An impromptu demonstration on the effectiveness of Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock against jellyfish stings was done by a lifeguard at the Godiva Beach Tour in a popular Cavite resort. After a single application of Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock on the arm, no sting, no redness, no irritation was felt even after one minute of contact with the jellyfish. The amazing on-the-spot test was done under the watchful eyes of scores of beachgoers. Experience protection not only against sunburn but also against stings from jellyfish and kati-kati with Godiva Safe Sea, the world's only sunblock that protects against marine stingers. Available at leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide. For more information, contact 890-9844 to 47 or email info@godivaskincare.com.



AMBI PUR PRESENTS TRANS SPORT SHOW 2005

Trans Sport Show 2005, the country's most prestigious and much awaited annual motoring event organized by TradeShow International Inc (TSI), is all set to unfold this coming April 20 to 24, at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Ambi Pur, the no. 1 car air freshener in Europe is this year's show presenter. Manufactured by Sara Lee Phils, Ambi Pur Car has been a consistent supporter of the event and considers Trans Sport Show as the ideal venue to promote its innovative and revolutionary product to the Filipino car aficionados. Shown during the contract signing are (from left): Sophie delos Santos, TSI president and Gabby Gonzales, brand assistant for Ambi Pur Car.

Tanduay, Viva Hotbabs Concert Tour in Boracay

TO CELEBRATE a great summer, Tanduary and Viva Hotbabs will stage their biggest concert ever today in the world-famous Boracay at the D'Mall. The Boracay Concert is part of the on-going Tanduary and Viva Hotbabs Nationwide Concert Tour being held in various towns and cities all over the country for 2005. Main attraction of the Boracay Concert Tour will be the sexy Viva Hotbabs who will thrill the audience with their daring and provocative song and dance numbers. During the entire event, Boracay residents and visitors will be treated to Tanduary's newest exotic drink, the Boracay café mix giveaways and big discounts on liquor products available at Tanduary booths installed around the venue. To ensure the widest coverage of the concert tour, Tanduary engages the services of the strongest and most popular radio/TV stations around the country. The Boracay concert will be covered and co-staged by Manila Broadcasting Corp. To-date the Tanduary and Viva Hotbabs Concert Tour has already covered 15 different places, 7 in Luzon 4 in Visayas.

Red hot summer deals

SPLASH some color, scent and adventure in your summer with your HSBC RED MasterCard, the first credit card for women that understands the lifestyle of the modern Filipina. At Regatta enjoy big discounts on selected apparel when you use your HSBC RED MasterCard. RED cardholders can get at 30 percent discount when they use their RED MasterCard at all Crabtree & Evelyn outlets. Cardholders will also enjoy a free hand therapy massage when they make any purchase with their RED card at selected outlets. With a P500 purchase at any Folded and Hung outlet in Metro Manila, RED cardholders get a free undergarment in fun and stylish designs. This summer, don't step on the breaks. Go ahead and enjoy these sizzling summer offers up to April 30. Because you can. Only with your HSBC RED MasterCard.

Summer at Ayala Greenfield

THE SUMMER season has officially begun, which means April sees many energetic activities at Ayala Greenfield. On April 10, Kite Team Phils will teach the family the freedom of flight in a colorful and dynamic kite festival at the Nature Park. A dazzling RC plane aerial exhibition will be held on April 17, while games of skill and accuracy will take center-stage in a day devoted to paintball on April 24. Activities start at 9 a.m., with Holy Mass celebrations at 10:30 a.m. at the Village Clubhouse. It's a summer to remember at Ayala Greenfield, as participants can also look forward to more summer excitement this May. For inquiries about the events or further details on Ayala Greenfield Estates, call 728-7000.

Bright Minds On The Move Mall Tour

A DAY of fun and learning awaits you and your child. Take part in Enervon Bright's Bright Minds On The Move Mall Tour. Learn proper nutrition and ways on how you can make your child brighter. Plus there will be activity booths, a puppet show and other surprises your child will surely love. To be hosted by funny mom, Giselle Sanchez, with special participation of child wonder, Goyong. Choose from these venues on the following dates: April 9 - SM Fairview; April 16 - SM Bacoor; April 30 - SM Southmall; May 15 - Robinson's Metro East, Cainta; May 21 - Robinson's Galleria; May 28 - SM North Edsa. Program starts at 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Fruit, veggie carving seminar

CHEF Eliodoro C. Cadawas Jr. will conduct a one-day hands-on fruit and vegetable carving seminar on April 14, 15, and 16. The seminar is a project of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (SHRIM) of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB). Venue is the DLS-CSB Angelo King International Center located at Estrada corner Arellano Sts. in Manila. Chef Cadawas currently runs a school in Chicago and has been recognized by different organizations in the United States for his achievements. Because of his accomplishments, he has also received the 'Pamana ng Pilipino' award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Chef Cadawas has invented a set of fruit and vegetable garnishing tools that he will be marketing in the future. Seminar fee is P3,000 inclusive of ingredients, handouts, and meals. For inquiries and reservations, call SHRIM at 400-7407.

Training seminar on Investigative Research

THE AIM-Hills Governance Center, in cooperation with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), will conduct a one-and-a-half-day training seminar on Investigative Research on April 19 and 20 at the AIM Conference Center Manila. The seminar will explain how investigations are carried out, and discuss examples of PCIJ investigations and their impact. Participants will learn how to conduct interviews on sensitive issues, retrieve documents, and draw information through computer-assisted data-gathering. How to investigate government purchases is one of the seminar highlights. For details and inquiries, contact Ronette Capral of the AIM-Hills Governance Center at 750-1010 loc 2145 or email her at rcapral@mail.aim.edu.ph.

Product Files

What you don't know about feet and shoes

SWEAT allows our body to thermoregulate as it evaporates we cool down. One of the areas of the body with the greatest concentration of sudoriferous glands is the foot sole, which has to bear our weight and the effects of our movement. Thus, our feet produce up to 100 liters of sweat a year. Rubber soles cause condensation on the sole of the foot giving you that classic feeling of wet feet and rubber soles create a plastic-bag effect around the foot. Good thing there's Geox. A company that creates shoes with perforated rubber sole that contains a special microporous membrane, which absorbs and expels sweat without letting water in. The thermographic test shows that the foot wearing a shoe with a conventional rubber sole is much more overheated than the foot wearing Geox. Geox mission is to convert an increasing number of people into consumers of breathing products. And intends to become a household name amongst consumer through its footwear and accessories lines - all products with high differential value. Geox opened its new store at Glorietta 3

Pancit Canton mania

THE PANCIT canton has evolved from being a main dish into an all-time meal or snack. Thanks to instant pancit canton brands like Payless Pancit Canton, Filipinos everywhere can enjoy their favorite noodle dish any time of the day. No more slaving over the stove for hours. In just a few minutes anyone can savor the delectable mix of choice seasonings and flavored noodles in every pack of Payless Pancit Canton. And because of non-stop product innovations, new flavors are constantly introduced to Filipino taste buds. Today, Payless Pancit Canton comes in two sizes: Regular and Xtra Big and is available in three exciting flavors: Original, Kalamansi and Chilisansi. So, what are you waiting for? Go to the Sari-sari store or Supermarket nearest you and treat yourself with a hearty meal of Payless Pancit Canton.

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BnewTwnhse/3try/3br/2 1/2b/gips

P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

2.4M New 4BR3TB 9422154

PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN VILL

2Stry 5br 3tb LA-131 FA-210

821-6564 • 0917-5258924

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400m² 4BR 3TB P6M neg

Matulungin Street Central Call

9214667 / 09217125444

7.5M Bnew 4car garage

3BR Maids Rm 5TB&B

LA147m² FA210m² #10 Sct.

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College Call 372-4157

ACROPOLIS P20M 2STY W/

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NR ARANETA CENTER/Makro

(1)two stry hse, 2 bungalow

LA302m² 0917-7499447

QUEZON CITY

SCOUT TRILLO 605M²

P16M well maintained

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924-1749-0917-8941622

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Brookside Calinta 656-8768

SAN JUAN

2STRY 5CAR P6M nrGHILLS

5623531 / 0917-5272166

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1st West Crame, Sn Juan P2.5M

(neg) T 7232935 • Linda

Wilson 4BR 4TB Tel.8294983

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs Tel 9372688

CAVITE

CAMELLA HOMES LA137m²

FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M

Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs Tel 5208410

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m²

2bdms 1TB&B FA61.28m²

P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES

3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M

VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

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1.1M C5 Nr The Fort

10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or

10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR

15min Fr Mkt 0917-8313226

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near D'Fort 0918-4044425

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Hampsons Place Fmt of Hatch

Asia Global City 0917-5213838

MAKATI CONDO

Studio, 1-3br. 3M up

RFO/Pre-selling. 0917-8997547

MKT NR AYALA

BnewTwnhse/3try/3br/2 1/2b/gips

P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Oriental Gardens Studio 45.5m²

2.78up Bnew 0920-3843962

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RENT 2 OWN Condo Resort!

2BR P127 RFO 0928-2473987

MANILA

2BR 3TB Twnhse P2.7M Sta.

Mesa Nr. L'rdes Hosp. Tel.

(0917) 8176435

2BR ROXAS BLVD. 2M 5361121

Bnew Thas nr DLSU-Tait Ave

LA45-48Sqm 1-2Car P4.7M UP

562-3531/0917-5272166

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27sqm CTLAND T-9389719

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

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Com'l Condo 122m²

Pioneer Hilands Twr

7/F P45K Incl. Nida 928-0512

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QUEZON CITY

Cubao 2Stry Thse 3BR w/nc

3TB mds qtr 2car grge

P177m²(rent) P3.2M(sale)

921-1780 or 921-8801

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AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Panoramic View Pool 77m²

09184845443

EASTWOOD 41m² 09166204156

P2.900m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Eastwood City 0917-5213838

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Penthse 2.5-7M 09189235216

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RFO / Pre-selling • Stud. 1-3br

3M-17M. TERMS AVLBLE.

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LOT

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m²

P4,737m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

AYALA SOUTHWALE-SONERA

525SQM up 0917-8997547

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m²

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QUEZON CITY

Capitol Park T-9389719

CONDO/TWNHSE

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CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IS URGENTLY
IN NEED OF:

CIVIL/MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Licensed Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineer, with at
least (5) years experience in bidding and construction of
high-rise building.

CADET CIVIL/MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

B.S. Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate,
can work long hours and willing to work even holidays.

AUTOCADD OPERATORS

B.S. Civil Engineering graduate of B.S. Architecture
graduate with a minimum of three (3) years experience in
vertical construction.

PLANNING ENGINEER

Licensed Civil Engineer with a minimum of five (5) years
experience in Primavera and in vertical construction.

Note: Opening is only three (3) to four (4) months contract
for bidding of vertical construction project. If
successful, they will be placed on the project.

Requirements: Curriculum vitae with detailed job
descriptions, certificates of employment, school
credentials and recent 2x2 colored pictures.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:

SUMMA KUMAGAI INC. - KUMAGAI GUMI JOINT VENTURE
4th Floor Pelbet Building 1, #2019 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
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Apply in person between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at:
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must be pretty 635-6530

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Underboard Nurses, Midwife or
Caregiver -WCT Office
2600 Legarda, Sampaloc Mla



Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR

Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(MARELCO)

• Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Marinduque

Starting Salary P30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 29 April 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
REGISTERED MECHANICAL ENGINEER**

(duly licensed by PRC)
for the position of

PROJECT COORDINATOR

The successful applicant will be given 3 months design training in

AIR CONDITIONING
REFRIGERATION
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multi trade plan overlay

EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: April 27, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. One (1) lot of scrap metals consisting of pipe casings, pipes, steel plate outtings, junk plant equipment, stainless steel pipes located UPI Nag-40 Stockyard, UPI S-25 Stockyard and NPC Nag-35 Stockyard and Warehouse, Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex, Tiwi, Albay Province.	P 9,909,610.00/lot
2. One (1) lot junk substation equipment, motor vehicle and computers and office equipment located at Batangas S/S, Mahabang Parang, Batangas City	P 174,000.00/lot

SCHEDULE - II

1. One (1) lot junk substation batteries, 204 pieces located at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant, Tiwi, Albay Province	P 16,320.00/lot
---	-----------------

Note: Prospective awardee for this item is required to secure Permit To Transport used batteries from the Environmental Management Bureau, DENR and submit certification of recycling from EMB-DENR accredited waste/used battery recyclers.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004, ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/sat from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. April 26, 2005.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - April 7, 8 & 9, 2005)

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**NOTICE OF LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS**

Following the successful conclusion of Absconder Proceedings, on 1st March 2005, a Confiscation Order under Section 8 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong was issued by Mr. Justice Ligar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance. On 24th March 2005 the assets of the following Respondents in Hong Kong were confiscated. Notice is hereby given that on 5th May 2005 an application will be made to the Court of First Instance to have the Restraint Order over the assets of the Respondents HCMP 4221 of 2002 discharged.

Amador PASTRANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd Company No 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd Company No 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd Company No 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd Company No 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd Company No 105043B	Respondent 6
Calimax Enterprises Ltd Company No 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd Company No 114160B	Respondent 8
Jopio Company Ltd Company No 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd Company No 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd Company No 16156	Respondent 11
Wains International Company Ltd Company No 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd Company No 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd Company No 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd Company No 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd Company No 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd Company No 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas) Company No 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc SEC Reg No A200005310	Respondent 20
Allied European Holdings Ltd Company No 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent can obtain a copy of documents and affirmations in relation to the hearing from either Ma. Elmira A. Alconaba, Assistant Director, Compliance and Enforcement Department Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Financial Investigations Division, Hong Kong Police, 21st Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. HCMP 4221 of 2002 refers.

(PDI - April 7, 8 & 9, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Region VIII
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region, VIII, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real Street, Tacloban City as venue for "SUMMER BAZAAR" trade exhibit from May 15, 2005 to July 15, 2005.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut Jones Street, Tacloban City, starting April 11, 2005. For inquiries, please contact Mr. Alfredo M. dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Mr. Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before April 18, 2005, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on April 21, 2005 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) RENOR O. DAUAG
Officer-in-Charge
PCGG, Region VIII
Tacloban City

(PDI-April 9, 10 & 11, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Supply, Printing and Delivery of
Health Cards, Snellen's Charts, and Tuning Forks**

1. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting suppliers and printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

PACKAGE	ITEM	BUDGET
1	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Individual Health Cards (Elementary)	P 2,250,000.00
2	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Individual Health Cards (Secondary)	P1,400,000.00
3	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Snellen's Charts	P 340,000.00
4	Supply & Delivery of Tuning Forks	P 1,000,000.00

The total Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is PHILIPPINE PESOS FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY (Php 4,990,000.00). Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

2. The DepED, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply, Printing and Delivery of GOODS to the DepED HNC, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on April 11, 2005 until April 18, 2005 upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat Office, 5th floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos One Thousand & 00/100 only (Php 1,000.00).
5. The DepED, BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on April 19, 2005, 10 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.
6. Bids must be received on or before May 2, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The DepED, BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI - April 9 & 16, 2005)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to different points in the Philippines:

VARIOUS FARM MACHINERIES, TRUCKS, VEHICLES AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM (BRAND NEW AND RECONDITIONED) for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects

Approved Budget for the Contract - Php 6,430,150.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	April 13 - May 6, 2005 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat, 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	April 26, 2005: 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	May 10, 2005 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - April 2 & 9, 2005)

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La Junta Directiva y los socios de la
**Cámara Oficial Española de Comercio,
Industria y Navegación en Filipinas**

quieren expresar sus mas profundos
sentimientos a la familia de nuestro socio
y buen amigo,

Salvador Pigem

que fallecio el 4 de Abril de 2005.

A Montserrat, Paula, Salvador, Jr. y Martina
ofreciendoles nuestra oraciones por el reposo
del alma de su querido
esposo y Padre.

Our dearly beloved
NICASIO NIEL S. ALLONES, SR.

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on 04 April 2005 at the age of 82.*

His wife Emiliana; children Cynthia,
Moonyeen, Nicasio Niel, Jr., Luisa Zita and
Joel; grandchildren Yvonne, Aldrick, Geralyn,
Raymond, Joshua Anton and Juliana Patricia;
in-laws, relatives and friends request the
readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at San Lorenzo Ruiz
Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel in Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Monday, 11
April 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
at the Sacred Heart Memorial Park, Sum-ag,
Bacolod City.

God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts...

In Loving Memory

ON THE 11TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

OF

MARCIANA "Lola Sianang" A. BAYANGOS

who joined her Creator on 9 April 1994.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Saturday, 9 April 2005 at the following:

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila 6:00 AM
Sta. Cruz Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila 8:00 AM
Santisimo Rosario Parish, Sampaloc, Manila 6:15 AM
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes 6:30 AM
Sta. Teresita Parish, Kanlaon, Quezon City 6:00 AM
Ntra. Sra. Del Perpetuo Socorro Parish, Calamba, Manila 6:00 AM
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, EDSA, Quezon City 6:30 AM
St. Francis Church, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan 8:00 AM
St. Anthony's Shrine, Sampaloc, Manila 6:15 AM
Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Sampaloc, Manila 6:00 AM
The National Shrine of St. Michael & Archangel
San Miguel, Manila 7:00 AM
San Sebastian Parish, Manila 6:00 AM
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, San Miguel, Manila 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila 6:00 AM
The Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran 6:45 AM

Her only child Roger; grandchildren Grace and Ricky, Onie, Ruby and Jun; Majoy and Jay; Bebeth; Derick and Mylene and great grandchildren Miguel, Jose, Katrina, Emmanuel, Clarisse, Cynrid, Renz and Therese, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember "Lola Sianang" in their prayers.



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**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have everlasting life."**

John 3:16

Our dearly beloved

ALICIA GATAN CABAUATAN

of Cabagan, Isabela and Project 4, Quezon City

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 7, 2005 at the age of 87.*

Her husband Iding (†); loving children Becky and Rolly, Judy,
Ruby and Mar; grandchildren Ron, Rhea and Edyrik;
sisters Belen, Prof. Nina; brother Msgr. Mariano; nephews, nieces
and other relatives request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 13, 2005
at Cabagan Cemetery after the Holy Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Reinsurance for NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY'S
Directors and Officers Liability Cover)

The GSIS-GIBAC, thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the reinsurance for the National Development Company's Directors and Officers Liability cover for the period 12:00 noon of May 8, 2005 to 12:00 noon of May 8, 2006, with an approved budget of P7,200,000.00, all inclusive.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
April 11 to 18, 2005 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Reinsurance Department GIG, 5th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	April 19, 2005 2:00 PM Makati Skyline Restaurant 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	April 26, 2005 Submission 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Opening 2:30 PM Makati Skyline Restaurant 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

The lead reinsurer, either local or foreign, must have a credit rating of at least "A" from a reputable rating agency as of December 2004, and certify that it will provide a lead line of at least 40% of the reinsured risk.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P5,000.00 to the Government Service Insurance System.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, Sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The GIBAC and the TWG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which it deems responsive and most advantageous to the government.

April 5, 2005, Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO
GIBAC Chairman

(PDI - April 9 & 16, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of Purified Water in five-gallon containers (about 300 containers per week from June 1 to December 31, 2005) with an approved budget for the contract of P298,000.00 for use at the NFA Central Office:

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

April 11 to 26, 2005
April 27, 2005 (10:00 AM)
May 11, 2005 (9:00-9:45 AM)
(10:00 AM)
Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent
Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom
Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA
Submission of eligibility documents and bid proposals
Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor, Tensico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of P1,000.00, non-refundable fee. The Letter of Intent should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than the close of business hours of April 26, 2005. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Jose D. Chua at Tel. No. 712-6813 (direct line) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8923.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI - April 9 & 16, 2005)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Alvarado Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 899-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the DRAFT SURVEY SERVICES FOR IMPORTED AND LOCAL COAL SHIPMENTS AND ON-HIRE/OFF-HIRE SURVEY SERVICES FOR MONTHLY TIME-CHARTERED BARGES/TUGBOATS (CM05-1201). The contract duration is One (1) Year.

The approved budget for this contract per category chargeable against PNOC EC funds is as follows:

Draft Survey for Imported Coal Shipments Pph 517,800.00
Draft Survey for Local Coal Shipments Pph 1,384,580.00
On-Hire/Off-Hire Survey Services Pph 50,000.00

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Assistant (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro/Mr. Carlos L. Mejias) starting April 11, 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand Five Hundred (PHP 1,500.00).

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184. The Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and to be awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided that the concerned Bidder shall pass the post-qualification process.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on April 28, 2:00 PM, at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The Eligibility Requirements and the Bid Documents, composed of two (2) sealed envelope, the first envelope containing the Technical Bid and the second envelope containing the Financial Bid shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than 3:00 p.m. of May 11, 2005 at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder's whose bids is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurement.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Ernesto S. San Jose
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - April 9, 2005)

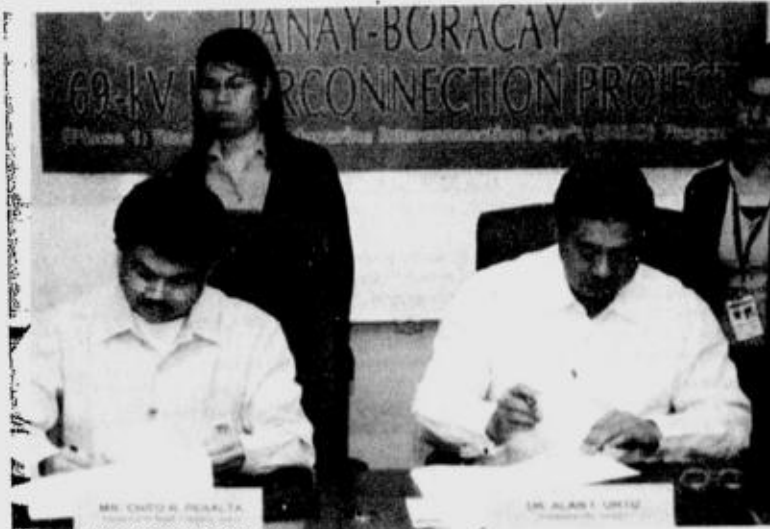


NFA INSPECTS RICE IN BULACAN MARKET

Photo shows National Food Authority provincial manager for Bulacan Mar Alvarez (left, in white shirt) as he inspects the quality of NFA rice being sold at this accredited rice outlet in Malolos Public Market. Alvarez is joined by NFA director for public affairs Rex Estoperez. Alvarez assured that the food agency has enough rice supply in the market with the arrival of imported rice from Vietnam. NFA regular-milled rice is being sold at P16 per kilogram, while well-milled rice is sold at P18 per kilogram.

TRANSCO, AKELCO SIGN MOU, VOW TO FASTRACK PANAY-BORACAY PROJECT

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) and Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) recently entered into a memorandum of understanding for the immediate implementation of the P128-million 69-kV Panay-Boracay Interconnection Project. The project covers Phase I of TransCo's Small Island Submarine Interconnection Development (SISID) Program which aims to eventually complete the Luzon-Visayas Transmission Loop. TransCo has committed to complete the project by December 15 this year. TransCo will install a 69kV transmission submarine cable from Panay to Boracay Island as well as 30-MVA power transformer at Akelco's proposed Boracay substation. Both installations will be covered by a lease-purchase agreement to enable TransCo to eventually transfer these to Akelco's ownership and control. In photo, TransCo president and CEO Alan T. Ortiz Ph.D. (right) and Akelco Board of Directors president Chito Peralta (left) formalized the agreement in a simple ceremony held at TransCo's Diliman Head Office.



BUSINESS

'SERIOUS RISK'

High oil to take toll on world economy—IMF



TRADERS work in the Oil Futures pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange in New York. May prices for crude oil fell 34 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$55.70 USD a barrel at the Exchange.

WASHINGTON—China's growing thirst for petroleum, tight supplies and little spare production capacity will keep oil prices volatile through 2030, with the possibility of spikes as high as \$100 a barrel, the International Monetary Fund said on Thursday.

"In short, it will continue to be a rocky ride going forward, with a wide band of uncertainty surrounding high expected prices," said Raghuram Rajan, the IMF's chief economist.

As living standards improve in China, India and other developing nations, oil demand will increase, especially for cars and

trucks, Rajan told reporters. The IMF forecast China will be consuming nearly as much oil in 2030 as the US consumes now. Currently the US consumes about a quarter of the world's oil production.

"The oil market will remain tight in the coming years, and high and volatile oil prices will continue to present a serious risk to the global economy," the IMF said in its semiannual World Economic Outlook report.

Through 2010, oil prices will be subject to large swings as non-Opec producers try to meet incremental demand. "Since the

prospects for higher spare capacity are unfavorable, the market will likely remain tight and vulnerable to shocks," it said.

From 2010 through 2030, after non-Opec output has peaked, the world will be more dependent on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to meet demand. That will also bring "growing upside risks to prices," the report said.

The IMF forecast average world oil prices in a range of \$39 to \$56 per barrel in 2030, as expressed in 2003 dollars. That would represent a range of \$67 to \$96 per barrel in nominal terms.

For 2005, the average world oil price will be about \$52.23 a barrel, IMF analysts said. That is sharply higher than the \$37.25 a barrel than the IMF forecast in its September report.

US crude oil soared to a record high of \$58.28 per barrel on Monday in a buying frenzy triggered by a Goldman Sachs forecast that prices could spike as high as \$105 per barrel.

Rajan said such a high price was possible.

"To the extent that there is some kind of supply disruption, \$100 a barrel does not seem outlandish," he said.

"Is it the most likely scenario? I think not necessarily. It depends on how the market evolves." The new IMF report estimated world oil demand will grow to 138.5 million barrels per day in 2030

from 82.4 million bpd in 2004.

Significant growth will come from China, which was forecast to consume 19 million bpd of oil in 2030, more than triple the amount used in 2004, the IMF said.

Rising incomes in China mean its motor vehicle ownership rate will soar to an estimated 267 vehicles per 1,000 people in 2030, up from just 16 vehicles per 1,000 people in 2002. By comparison, the United States is forecast to have 843 vehicles per 1,000 people in 2030, up from a rate of 812 in 2002.

Demand for Opec oil will more than double to a range of 61 million to 74 million bpd by 2030, the IMF said.

To meet that demand, cartel members would need to invest about \$350 billion to increase production capacity, it said.

However, one economic model suggests that Opec's optimal world oil market share is 41 percent to 46 percent for cartel members to balance gains from higher output against the resulting lower prices.

That would put Opec output at 52 million to 59 million bpd in 2030, the IMF said.

"Consequently, Opec may not have an incentive to significantly increase its current market share of just below 40 percent," it said.

The IMF will publish its entire economic report at www.imf.org on the Web.

Reuters

GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:

- To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQUEST Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: **INQ Reg** <full name> <complete address> <age> <gender>
Ex: **INQ Reg** Juan dela Cruz 1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig 24 M
- Send to 2520 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Sun Cellular subscribers or 509 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
- Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically linked to your name.

The Game:

- Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQUEST Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
- To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQUEST website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 8 to 9pm at ABCB).
- To answer, text in this format: **INQ Q** <question #> <answer> and so on. Ex: **INQ Q 1 A**
- Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
- For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
- There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (5 winners). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding draws. Final draw winner can only win once.
- The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a cool prize,

- The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional cash prize P80,000.00 will be given to those with correct answer.
- Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
- Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascarado Sts., Makati City.
- Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

- The following must be presented by the Grand draw winners for verification:
a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birth date/age, present a birth certificate
c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
d. PDI masthead (including date) taken from issue where question was published
- Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
- All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
- The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
- All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQUEST, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the game.
- Prize period is from March 2 to May 7, 2006.

For more details, see prize flyers or log on to www.inquestor.com

Asian markets up

SINGAPORE—Asian tech shares led regional markets higher on Friday, in line with gains in New York where a sharp fall in oil prices fueled broad-based buying.

The dollar climbed towards a two-month peak against the euro on expectations that US interest rates and the dollar's rate advantage over other currencies will keep increasing.

NYMEX crude oil futures slid under \$54 a barrel on Friday, extending this week's losses to 6 percent amid swelling US crude oil inventories.

US crude prices hit a record high on Monday, driven up by concerns that rapidly rising demand in Asia's emerging economies, especially China and India, would outpace supply growth.

But the red-hot prices have attracted a tide of imported oil to the United States, building the nation's stockpiles to their highest in nearly three years and raising the possibility of a market reversal.

The Nikkei share average rose 0.43 percent after the US Nasdaq index gained nearly 1 percent to close above the 2,000 level.

This encouraged investors to buy Toshiba Corp. and other technology issues.

MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares gained 0.4 percent, led by rises in Taiwan's tech-heavy TAIEX and South Korea's KOSPI.

All major Asian indexes were ahead.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 0.58 percent, its fourth consecutive gain.

Forex traders were awaiting the release of volatile Japanese machinery orders data for February at 2 pm yesterday.

These were expected to show a rise of 2.8 percent in core orders from a month earlier, which would be the first rise in three months.

"The machinery data, along with industry output figures are pretty important for the forex market. It tends to move the yen, perhaps more so than the GDP (gross domestic product) figures," said a Japanese bank trader.

Toshiba, Japan's second-largest electronics conglomerate, was up 1.5 percent after a newspaper report that the company's group operating profit could be boosted in the current financial year, helped by improved profitability in its PC division.

That confidence also supported top South Korean flat-screen makers Samsung Electronics, which was up 1.2 percent, and LG Philips LCD, which rose a third of a percent.

Australian shares rose 0.4 percent, led by sharp gains in resources leaders BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, both rising 1.8 percent.

Singapore's Straits Times Index rose 0.4 percent to within a few points of a four year high of 2,191.29 hit last month.

Reuters

Asia mobile phone sales up 24% in '04

SINGAPORE—Asia-Pacific mobile phone sales excluding Japan rose 24.1 percent to 164 million handsets in 2004 on strong demand for low-tier models, the Gartner research house said Friday.

Reigning market leader Nokia increased its total annual sales in 2004 by 28 percent to 50.6 million handsets, driven by the popularity of its mid- and low-tier models in emerging markets India and China, Gartner said.

"Phones with cameras and color screens accounted for the majority of sales in the low-tier segment, slowly eroding the share of black and white display handsets," Gartner analyst Ann Liang said.

Third-generation (3G) handsets, meanwhile, proved unpopular among Asians in 2004, although sales were expected to pick up this year as the technology becomes increasingly available in the region, according to Gartner.

"Sales of 3G handsets were disappointing, due to a lack of popular models and with operators continuing to focus 3G marketing efforts on customers with high calling patterns," said Liang.

Nokia's market share in Asia last year was 30.8 percent, 1.0 percentage points higher than in 2003.

Samsung grabbed second position in the region, with sales volumes increasing by 31 percent to 28.2 million, or 17.1 percent market share, on aggressive advertising and marketing, the research house said.

Motorola had the third biggest presence with sales of 18.6 million, despite losing 1.4 percentage points in market share to 11.3 percent.

LG, whose market share fell by 1.1 percentage points to 5.7 percent, was next with sales of 9.3 million handsets in 2004.

AFP

PROPERTY

Steel fireproofing prevents building collapse

By Tessa R. Salazar

STEEL is the backbone of modern buildings. It acts as the reinforcement for concrete and the framework of buildings. It literally keeps a building together. Its inherent strength and ductility makes it the ideal structural material.

Experts also praise the incombustibility of steel. However, experts also caution that though steel does not catch fire, it doesn't mean that fire doesn't have an effect on steel and its strength.

Actually, steel loses strength when subjected to high temperatures equivalent to those measured in a fire. As such, during prolonged exposure to structural fires, steel must also be protected from the heat.

In 1983, Filipino mechanical engineer Antonio G. Santos observed how most old building structures collapsed easily during a fire.

An industry practitioner for 50 years now, Santos had been featured in the INQUIRER's

Property section a year ago for his vacuumatic concrete planer invention now being used in several concrete floors of buildings in the country. That invention won for him first prize at the National Inventors Week in 1995.

Fireproofing structural steel

This time, Santos claims he has devised a way to fireproof structural steel at half the price of imported fireproof steel.

He claims that his Flameshield Fireproofing has undergone laboratory tests at the University of the Philippines, and that results have showed that his one-inch-thick fireproofing material has a fire resistance rating of two hours; the 1.5-inch material a rating of three hours; and the 2-inch-thick material a four-hour fire resistance rating.

A one-inch thick fireproofing material costs P30 per square foot.

Santos' fireproofing material protects beams, columns, trusses, girders, metal decks, joists, bank vaults and other steel and metal structures.

Santos says his materials are composed of lightweight, nonasbestos mineral fibers and in-

A one-inch thick fireproofing material costs P30 per square foot

organic dry binders and are made to conform to the Underwriters Laboratories Inc.'s standards.

His materials are applied by direct troweling and then set into a uniform and consistent monolithic heat-shield envelope to any steel, concrete and other surface requiring fire protection.

At half the price

As to what makes his Flameshield different from other imported materials available in the Philippines, Santos says it would be the cost. At half the price of imported counterparts, Flameshield serves the same purpose.

"It retards heat so it could withstand elevated heat temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit without crumbling," he attests. He says there are builders who have tested Flameshield for themselves.

Noli Bernardo, the architect of Banco Filipino Greenhills, San Juan and Summa Bank Building in Libertad, Pasay, fireproofed the

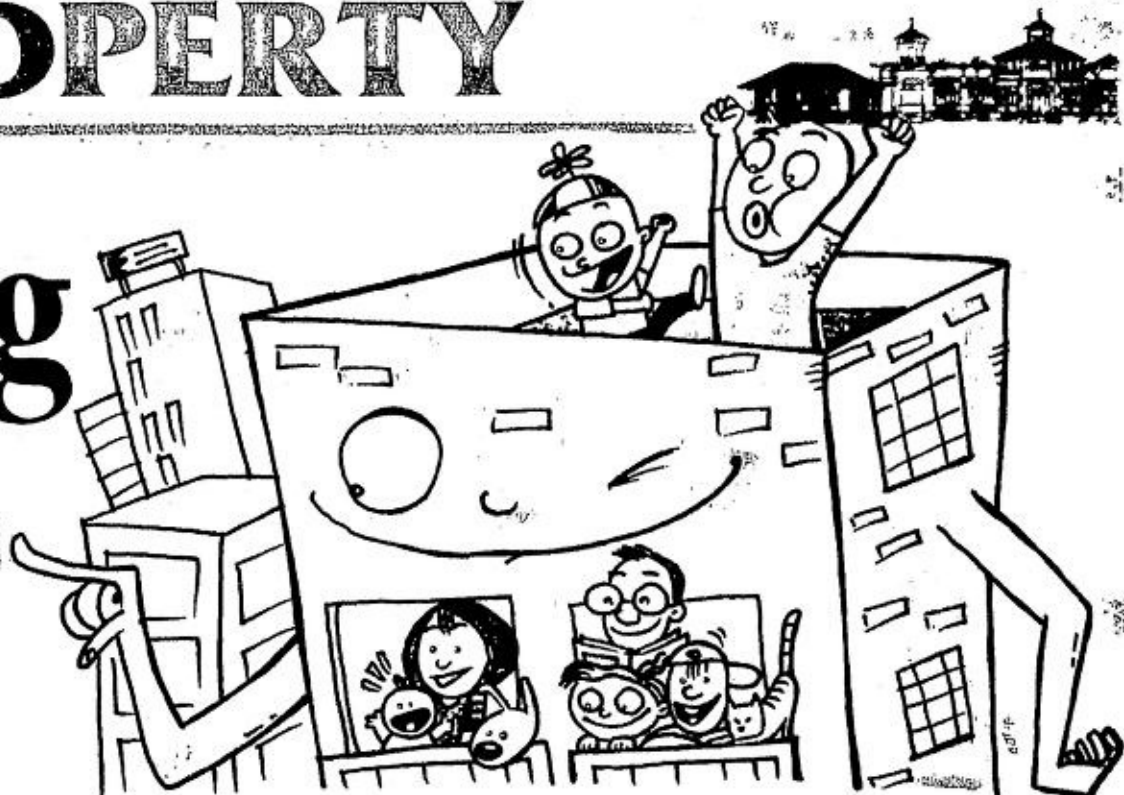
buildings' bank vaults using Santos' Flameshield.

"This is (for) lifetime protection," says Bernardo.

Apart from the two buildings, Santos says the steel beams, trusses and girders of the Central Bank Regional Office Complex in Davao City, the Good Earth Emporium Building in Manila and the Victory Liner Building in Pasay City, and the steel beams and trusses of Marbella II Building Condominium on Roxas Boulevard, Manila, have been fireproofed using Flameshield.

The roofs of the Gotesco Complex on Recto Avenue, Manila and Gotesco Cinema in Caloocan City have also been fireproofed with Santos' innovation.

Santos stresses that all buildings should include fireproofing in its plans. He adds that in America, it is mandatory for a builder to fireproof the structures to be built.



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Global warming and green architecture

DURING SUMMER, many modern buildings and homes seem designed to deliberately bake their residents. Many lives are endangered by these structures that promote heat and humidity build-up.

In America, during summer, more people die from heat than from the more publicized natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods. Two years ago, about 12,000 people died in Europe during a two-week heat wave.

However, in this country we are not aware of many people dying due to excessive heat, because some experts claim that people raised in hot climates are generally better able to tolerate high temperatures. Though we may not be dying from excessive heat, we are left uncomfortable especially during summer.

Affecting our health

Heat affects our physical well-being and it may contribute to certain types of illnesses such as heart and lung disease. The elderly are particularly susceptible to heat since they have less ability to adjust to heat, they sweat less and dehydrate easily.

The dangers of heat are enhanced by air pollution and humidity. When humidity is high, one is deceived into thinking that the temperature is higher than it really is. (Humidity is the amount of water vapor or moisture in the air.)

The way a building is designed greatly affects its indoor temperature. If the occupants feel comfortable, then it is said to have good building ecology.

Note that building ecology is the element of green architecture that focuses on the physical conditions of a structure in relation to the well-being of its occupants.

Global warming

In cold countries, plants can die over the winter due to very

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

low temperatures. This is why many farmers and gardeners make use of the greenhouse, a house composed of special glass walls and roofs. This type of glass allows heat from the sun to enter the greenhouse but does not let it escape. This allows the heat to build up and get trapped inside, making the temperature warmer so that the plants will not die of cold.

Like the greenhouse, the earth's temperature is gradually increasing. This is caused by the proliferation of "greenhouse gases." Greenhouse gases accumulate within our atmosphere, trapping heat from the sun. Without this natural "greenhouse effect," temperatures would be much lower than they are now, and life would not be possible.

Thanks to these gases, the earth's average temperature is a more hospitable 60°F.

Unlike with plants, however, an oversupply of heat is not beneficial for the earth and for us, its inhabitants. Actually, it has been proven that temperatures in given places on earth are higher than what they would have been decades ago, and this is caused by this "greenhouse effect," which is the phenomenon of global warming.

Causes of global warming

Scientists believe the carbon that humans let loose in the atmosphere, mostly from fuels burned to run cars, trucks, heat and cool homes and offices and power factories are the primary reason for the increased concentration of carbon dioxide. This

has resulted in glaciers melting, sea levels rising and severe storms becoming more frequent.

There are several features in today's cities that contribute to heat buildup. Dark-colored building façades and roofs absorb more heat as compared to lighter, more reflective ones. Buildings that are tightly packed together block the dispersion of heat and humidity. Common building materials such as concrete and metal absorb heat and release it to building interiors.

Instantly, what comes to mind is to cool buildings and homes with air-conditioners. The problem is mechanical air-conditioners are expensive and inefficient. It dispels heat into the atmosphere which in turn is absorbed by buildings and released back into the atmosphere. In the end, air-conditioners actually make cities hotter.

Principles

By applying green architecture principles, the effects of global warming can be greatly minimized. Some examples are:

- Large trees and extensive landscaping in urban areas can provide much-needed shade and natural cooling. Landscaping can cool the surrounding areas through evaporation of water from soil and leaves.
- Proper building orientation to minimize east-west exposure can cut down on energy for air-conditioning.
- Highly reflective roofs and surfaces can reduce air-conditioning bills by 10 to 50 percent.
- Sun-shading devices, window treatments, exterior materials shield the building from the sun. (Interior window treatments like blinds or shutters are not as effective as exterior devices that block the sun's heat before it penetrates the interior.)



KEN Yeang's Menara Mesiniaga Tower, an award-winning office building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is an excellent example of bioclimatic architecture—the exploration of a low-energy contemporary type of building for tropical countries. It features natural and air-conditioned type of ventilation, landscaped sky courts, and various external louvers that shade the offices from the sun's glare and heat. Architect Yeang is one of the speakers in the ongoing 31st national convention of The United Architects of the Philippines at the World Trade Center, Manila, with the theme "Opportunities Without Borders...exciting times for the Filipino Architect."

RETHINKING THE SKYSCRAPER. THE COMPLETE ARCHITECTURE OF KEN YEANG BY ROBERT POWELL (THAMES & HUDSON)

• Green roofs or landscaped roof decks reduce urban heat, cuts down pollution and slows down water run-offs. They also counteract the effect of the heat island phenomenon, which refers to the buildup of heat in urban areas due to hard surfaces like concrete that absorb heat and release it at night.

• A strategy that many contemporary architects can adopt is the application of traditional design concepts that use nonmechanical means for cooling. Using interior courtyards is one example.

• Other possible green strate-

gies that can be adopted are redesigning communities to encourage walking, biking and mass transit; switching to fuel-efficient vehicles, installing energy-efficient lighting and purchasing newer, more efficient appliances are ways that help cut down emissions or by using vehicles that run on fuels such as compressed gas, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, hydrogen and electricity can improve urban air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Architects have a very big responsibility for building and im-

proving our cities to cut down the ill effects of summer heat. Green architecture offers many useful solutions for minimizing and dissipating heat in naturally ventilated buildings and homes. It's time to tap the skills of today's architects using these environment-friendly design strategies instead of relying on expensive high-tech solutions.

(The author is vice chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and is a practising green Architect. For comments or inquiries, email amadodejesus@gmail.com.)



GOLF drive gate



MANSION

Cathay Land sets sights on next realty boom

SIGNS point to a strong recovery for the real estate industry this year—and leading developer Cathay Land is poised to capitalize with the recent launch of its biggest project to date.

The continued growth of the middle-income to high-income segment, strong buying interest among Filipinos based overseas, the confidence of retirees to invest in second homes and estates, and the easy financing schemes offered by banks all point to boom years for the real estate sector, after the peak years enjoyed in the middle part of the 1990s.

Strong market reception

These factors all contributed to the strong uptake of the first community to rise in the exclusive South Forbes Golf City—Cathay Land's 250-hectare development in the Sta. Rosa residential and industrial hub. After only a few months of soft-selling the Mediterranean-inspired South Forbes Villas, 70 percent of the lots have been taken by investors and home buyers, Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng reported.

Thus, bigger, grander South Forbes projects such as the Zenlike Bali Mansions will now be introduced to the market. The company is projecting a strong market reception to the Bali Mansions, which feature spacious lots, wide-open windows for grander vistas, and relaxing wooden interiors.

Cathay Land is also looking at launching the Asian-modern Shanghai and tranquil Kyoto Mansions in the next few months, once the Bali Mansions are sold out. With these grand launches and architecturally diverse new



LIVING and dining area

project strategies in place, Ng expects investor interest to remain high for South Forbes.

Main attraction

The main attraction for buyers, however, is the golf playing rights that they acquire with every lot purchase at South Forbes. This will give them the chance to play with their neighbors and test their golfing skills amid the fairways, sand traps and water formations that dot the 80-hectare South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club.

"The local real estate market

has always shown remarkable interest in exclusive golfing communities, as manifested by the quick sell-out of prime golf subdivisions such as Wack-wack. This time, however, we're offering investors more than just a golf subdivision, we're building a whole golf city with various lifestyle, work, and play options for the whole family," Ng emphasized.

Strong track record

Cathay Land boasts of a strong track record in the industry, including the development of the fully serviced apartments of the

Astoria Plaza Suites in the Ortigas Business District and the Cavite Light Industrial Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Astoria Plaza, a 35-story landmark in the Ortigas skyline, features spacious Zen-inspired hotel rooms at affordable rates. As such, it has attracted a strong following among businessmen, travelers, and recently, Filipino "balikbayans."

Astoria Plaza recently announced its expansion plans due to the clamor of the Sta. Rosa business community for a full-service business hotel in the area. Thus, Cathay Land will soon develop the Astoria Plaza Sta. Rosa at the heart of the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club. Much like the concept for the Ortigas hotel, the new Astoria Plaza will feature spacious rooms, full conference facilities, and fine-dining restaurants beside the fairways and enchanting lagoon. With this leisurely setting, Astoria Plaza will surely be able to cater to the needs of the area's top local and multinational firms.

Meanwhile, the 77-hectare Cavite Light Industrial Park hosts modern telecommunications facilities, wide concrete roads, and uninterrupted water and electrical



MANSION

supply ideal for export-oriented companies. Among the park's corporate locators are Sanitary Care Products and Fox Electronics.

Land banking

Cathay Land's land bank covers 5 million square meters of prime property in various areas of Metro Manila and its suburbs. The company is now conducting feasibility and conceptual studies to develop medium- to high-rise buildings of its land bank in the Ortigas area, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, Fairview, Novaliches, West Avenue and Taguig.

With its good cash position—total sales of the Cathay Group of Companies, to which Cathay Land belongs, remain robust at approximately P5 billion annually and continue to grow over the years—and a strong balance sheet, Cathay Land is set to allocate P5.25 billion over the next few years to fully develop South Forbes into a self-sustaining satellite city.

"Cathay Land, with the support

of the whole Cathay Group, is set on fulfilling its vision for the Philippines; first world-class satellite city. With its synergy with our affiliates such as Federal Hardware and Eurotiles, we are able to offer investors not just a prime address but a home built with quality materials that will stand the test of time," Ng assured.

He added, "South Forbes Golf City redefines residential and commercial development into an inclusive mix that combines distinctive lifestyle choices for the whole family. We are expecting investors, home buyers, retirees and Filipinos working abroad to embrace and experience the golf lifestyle only here at South Forbes."

For wise investors who want to reap returns in terms of a rewarding golf lifestyle at South Forbes Golf City, you can arrange a property preview of the site's strong investment potential by simply calling (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 and visit www.cathaylandinc.com.



CLUBHOUSE



WELCOMING tropical fields and winding driveways lead to island-inspired villages.



LOOK forward to waking up to invigorating fountains, refreshing air and lush tropical greens.

Island Park, metro south's tropical jewel, launches tomorrow

BRITTANY Corp., the maverick trendsetter known for its high-end, planned residential communities set apart by distinctive themes, will launch Island Park in Dasmariñas, Cavite tomorrow.

Island Park is a jewel of a development offering a life of tropical resort-themed splendor in an unspoiled environment amid great, open spaces cooled by constant breezes under wide, sunny skies, yet accessible to Makati, Manila and Ortigas.

Metro south's tropical jewel

Metro Manila is only 636 square kilometers in area and is home to over 10 million residents. For metro dwellers with growing children who yearn for elegant homes and are concerned about quality-of-life issues, location and access are primary factors in choosing residential communities, particularly in relation to key urban centers.

Cognizant of these factors and

growth trends such as the expansion of Alabang and the development of Carmona, Southwoods and Greenfields, Brittany has identified metro south locations ideal for a premium residential market.

One such area is Dasmariñas where Island Park is found. It is now only a short trip from Alabang via Daanghari, an interconnecting highway also known as the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road. Likewise, the area is accessible via the Coastal Road from Manila via Roxas Boulevard, as well as the South Luzon Expressway that leads to Makati and Ortigas via Southwoods or Carmona Exit.

The road infrastructures, not to mention spacious expanses of land, a clean environment and proximity to leisure destinations in Tagaytay and Batangas, make the area attractive to families who want to live in an exclusive community offering convenient



SURROUNDING Island Park is an ensemble of colorful plants and trees, offering its residents expansive outdoor spaces.

access to frequent destinations. Thus, Island Park is a property jewel in a perfect setting.

Island villages

Island Park is a unique collection of island villages inspired by thematic influences from leading

resort islands such as those in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Southeast Asia. Imagine life as a resident of Island Park: Your family wakes up to a refreshing morning and goes to sleep under the stars at night in comfort and security, breathing the clear,

healthy air amid broad, lush expanses and spacious skies.

Your tastefully designed home offers a relaxed, tropical ambiance for great living year-round, blending with the breezy, sunlit outdoors enhanced by carefully selected tropical flowers and greenery.

No power or phone lines obstruct the tropical vistas, because these utilities are all underground. All around your home are orchestrated ensembles of colorful foliage pleasing to the senses, complementing generously proportioned playgrounds and landscaped fields.

Unlike most other metro kids, Island Park's children are liberated from confined, polluted city spaces that only allow computer games and other sedentary play. Every single day, your children can enjoy the freedom of open, landscaped spaces to play in with their friends and neighbors, savoring freedom with safety and security.

For those who want such a privileged life, Island Park is not merely a dream but already a reality. The community is situated

on Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas, Cavite, with a separate entrance on Molino-Paliparan Highway connecting to Daanghari.

Neighborhoods

Future residents may choose among Island Park neighborhoods that include Ibiza, Montego and Bali. Ibiza and Montego offer both custom home sites and single-family homes. Custom home sites range from 300 to 700 sq m starting at P3 million while single-family homes have floor areas of 176 sq m and upward.

Bali likewise offers custom home sites and single-family homes. Its custom home sites are from 125 to 350 sq m starting at P2 million, while single-family homes have floor areas of 63 to 188 sq m with prices starting at P2 to P5 million.

The list of interested parties is steadily growing, indicating that more metro dwellers indeed are considering the metro south for a better environment to live in. Visitors are welcome to attend the launch of Island Park tomorrow, or may schedule property previews by calling 850-3084.

Life...
Leisure...
Other pleasures...

What makes life pleasurable?

It's the vastness of nature surrounding you.

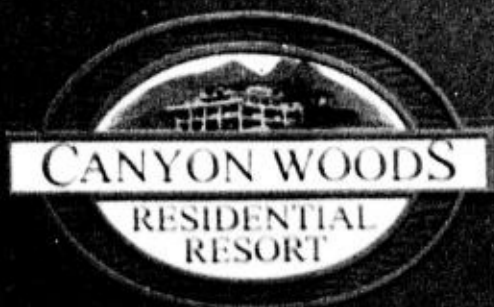
It's the taste of fine food as it melts in your mouth.

It's the feeling that comes from making that perfect swing.

At Canyon Woods, we aim to please with the amenities of a world-class residential resort.

So whether nature-bonding, fine dining or golfing is your thing, we've got what it takes to make your stay worthwhile.

Come to our Open House
on April 10 (Sunday) from 9 am to 4 pm
at the Georgetown Clubhouse.



www.canyonwoods.com

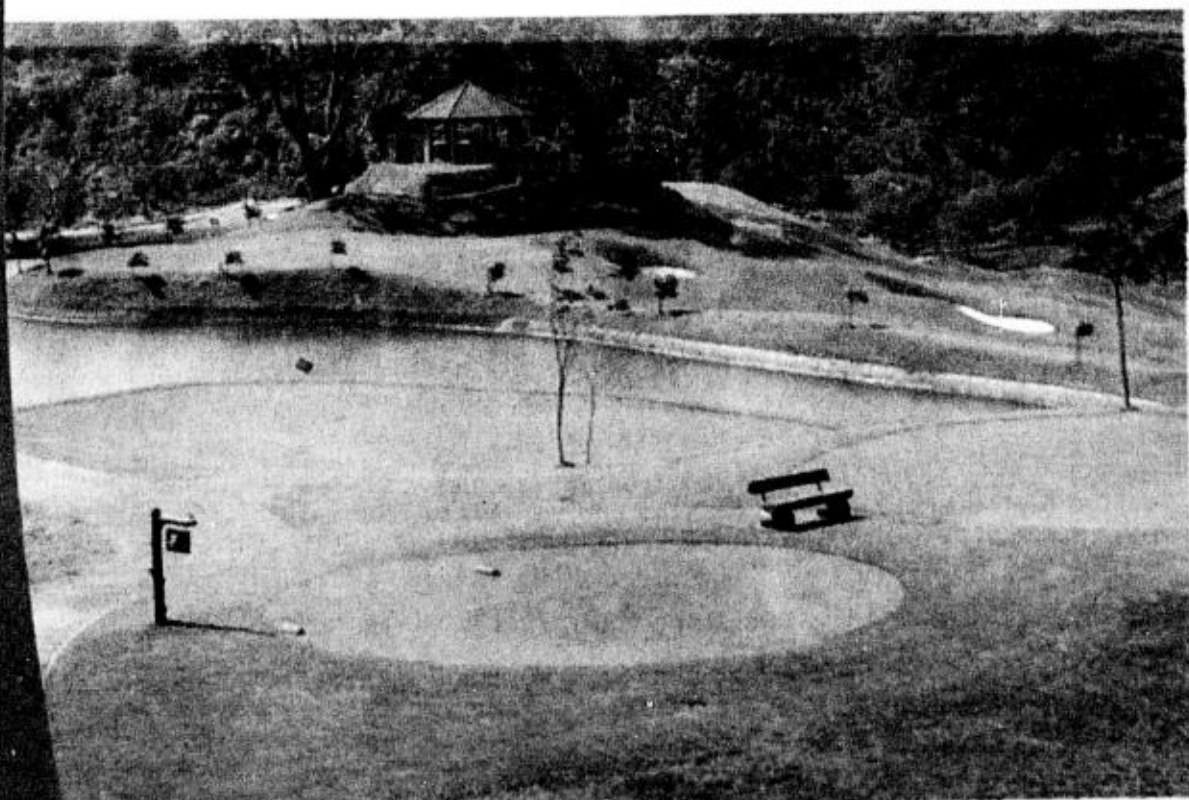
Marketing Network
Phone: 910-2744
637-2928 633-6190
634-2295 635-4454

Developer:
Tagaytay Grassland Company, Inc.
GCK Building, 1226 G. Apaoles St., Paco, Manila
Tel No.: 521-2222
Fax No.: 522-3357
E-mail: marketing@canyonwoods.com

Resort Office
Diofno Highway Barangay San Gregorio,
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Experience the pleasures that life has to offer.
Own a home in Canyon Woods today.



Brittany Corporation's Island Park:

A leisure paradise to call home

In the near south, an alluring paradise beckons. This is Island Park.

At Island Park, wide expanses stretch across the horizon, lined with golden coconuts, birds of paradise and various tropical greenery. The sun blankets the property with a warm golden glow balanced by the cooling winds. The ambience is resort-like and relaxing.

A 100-hectare luxury residential community of island villages, Island Park is the latest themed development from property maverick Brittany Corporation. Island Park will be composed of island villages, each one distinct from the other, all inspired by some of the world's great tropical resorts.

Located in fast-developing, progressive Dasmariñas, Cavite, Island Park offers a generous open space to development area ratio—55:45, a ratio that's unheard of for a property in Metro Manila.

You and your family have much more space to enjoy kite-flying, playing catch, or simply taking long relaxing walks. It's more than enough breathing room from the confines of city living.

The homes take inspiration from Caribbean, Mediterranean, and South Pacific influences. Presently, you can choose from single-family model homes that range from 176 sq.m. to 240 sq.m. You can also choose custom home sites from 300 to 700 sq.m. so you can create your own paradise home.

Alongside the expanses, you have greater space to play at the sports and leisure facilities. A 2-hectare area will be landscaped to integrate basketball courts, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a trekking trail and picnic grounds. An open-air pavilion will be available for hosting your events and parties. It's a recreational facility cradled by a tropical oasis.

And, within the property, St. Paul's College provides a conveniently located school. Moreover, Island Park is close to banks, commercial areas and other schools as well.

The tropical resort-like ambience, the wide open space, the relaxed atmosphere and the homes complemented by recreational facilities make for a home that's perfect for a life of leisure in paradise.

Renowned planner David Jensen, based in Denver, Colorado, collaborated with Brittany Corporation to master plan Island Park. The tropical landscaping was conceptualized with the SWA Group.

Discover paradise!

Come over to Island Park on April 10, 2005, Sunday, 10 a.m. onwards. Enjoy the Latin and Caribbean music and sumptuous island food. Make it a fun day at the Island!



PARADISE FOUND

Gently rolling expanses, lush with tropical greenery...shaded by golden coconuts and palms...dotted by the brilliant reds, oranges and yellows of tropical flowers. It's the perfect setting for a relaxed life, in the warming sun and the cooling winds. It is a place where you have more space to play and greater room to roam.

This is paradise. And it's something you'll find in Island Park.

A 100-hectare luxury residential community of island villages, Island Park takes inspiration from the world's great tropical resorts.

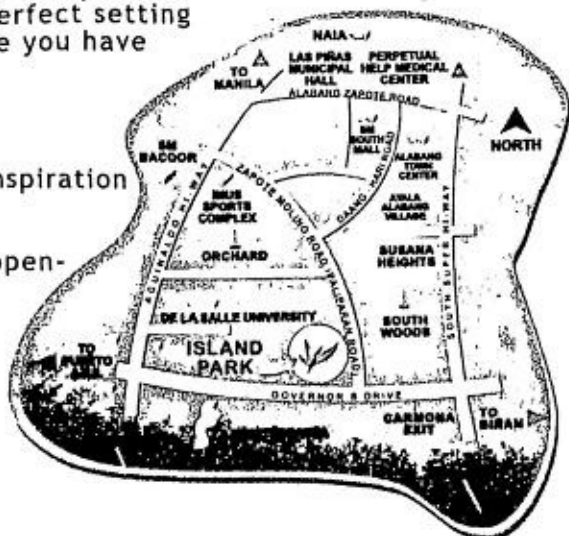
Recreational facilities—basketball, tennis and sand volleyball courts, and the open-air pavilion—enhance the tropical resort-like feel of the entire development.

Find a leisurely life you'll enjoy...a life in paradise...a life in Island Park.

Get a Property Preview: 850 2868 • 850 6986

ISLAND PARK

Brittany
CORPORATION



PROPERTY

Service stations not just fuel providers

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THEY used to contain just fuel pumps selling either gasoline or diesel products. Today, service stations have grown so big that some are now even called superstations. They are also now

considered a complete "haven of refuge" for road-weary motorists.

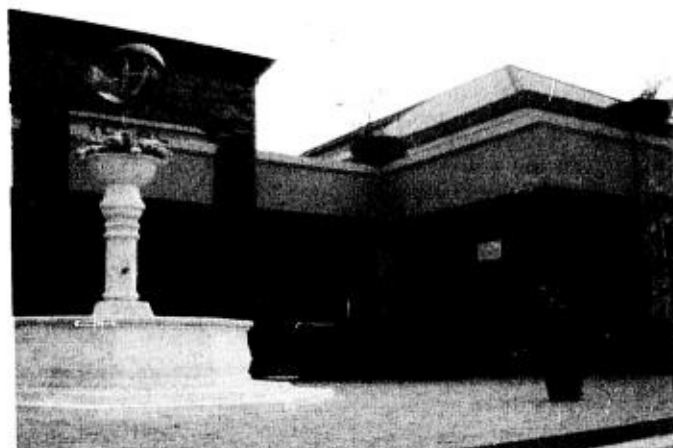
Consider the 2.2-hectare service station of Total, at present the French company's biggest service station in the Asian region.

The service station, which costs P150 million, is one of the newest commercial developments to rise on the northbound lane of the South Luzon Expressway in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

(near Asia Brewery-Greenfield exit).

Time and effort

"This is not just your regular service station—so much time and effort was poured into this project to create the most relaxing ambience we could provide to our customers," says Total Philippines retail investment manager Ariel Quizon.



TILE roofs, stone walls and generous application of earth colors dominate Total SLEX's service station's motif.

SERVICE/B3-2

BECAUSE YOU ARE MEANT TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE WHO MATTER MOST, THERE'S SONERA



Within the Ayala Commercial Complex lies Sonera, Ayala Land's latest residential development in the Ayala Alabang area. Not only are you a stone's throw away from all of life's necessities, you are also enveloped by one of the most advanced subdivision security systems available. Now you can live life the way it was meant to be lived, close to those who matter most.

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SONERA



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Designing a design school: The medium is the message

"Style is the outside of content."

—Jean Luc Goddard

EVERY once in a while, I get this rare knocked-out feeling—a sense of awe and overwhelming inspiration—when I discover a trailblazer in the design arena. Such was my experience when beautiful images of students interacting in a very chic environment attracted my attention.

I could swear this couldn't be a school, but more of a California resort club. I was both wrong and right.

Greenhouse of the future

The recently finished Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Southern California is a brainchild of a multi-

awarded designer, Clive Wilkinson of Clive Wilkinson Architects. Yes, it is an educational institution for the most stylish set of students this side of California. And I wish I were a student here if only to partake in the bastion of creativity these environs provide.

Here is one designer who is not daunted by the existing structures (which by the way was originally a 1926 beaux arts bank), nor the structures of a limited mind-set on doing things as he used to. Known for breaking barriers and discarding preconceptions on work spaces, Wilkinson is commissioned by FIDM founder Tonian Hohberg to provide a venue of inspiration for students, and it might be to his surprise that the designer let loose, bringing the palms, the pool and poolside deck inside the premises without ever leaving school.

INTO SPACE



Pinky Cruz

A 1,150 square-meter and a 7-meter high structure must accommodate 150 students in any given time. What floored me is how he managed to exhaust all space so-

lutions by his inventive configurations. The result is a different level of settings—from mezzanine gallery to a "tank" room separated by steel steps, from a platform deck down to a cockpit "pool."

These allocations do not only become visual highlights but also prove to be a functional strategy to provide myriad ways of group and personal interactions. It also respects the way a student learns and creates by incorporating both laptop stations and places for drafting boards for freestyle rendering or just plain reading or goofing around with friends.

"It's important to populate a space architecturally," says

Wilkinson. "Even when nobody's there, the room isn't forbidding, for the raised structures animate and fragment the space, giving it a welcoming scale," he adds.

Design philosophy

The sensitivity to the user's needs and inclinations is central to Wilkinson's philosophy. Known for his 25 years of expertise on high-profile creative design projects, he got good success on combining the chic playfulness of ad agencies, and his mastery of human behavior and social interactions. Key word is re-use and collaborate.

"We don't have a clue what we're doing until we are well into a project," he confesses. "It

alarms clients when they ask for our vision, but we don't want to get stuck with our first idea and fail to develop a better one. Vision follows a pragmatic assembly. Even with a written program, it takes time to arrange the parts of the body, with all the organs in place, to create a functioning mechanism."

There is an ocean of knowledge inside this cool school of awe-inspiring design and living testimony of this timeless design dictum: Content is always the basis of style. Long live substance!

(This is the first of a biweekly series that will feature trendsetters here and abroad in the field of design.)



ONE of the houses that are protected by Sentricon

Partners for a beautiful home

THE BEAUTY and strength of a house are in danger once termites are allowed to wreck havoc in one's home. This was the message delivered by Sentricon, a US-developed termite baiting system technology, in its product presentation during the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers meeting held in Makati recently.

PIID's meetings gather top interior designers to discuss issues relating to the profession and industry, as well as the latest technologies and trends that are vital to building strong and beautiful structures.

PIID is the only accredited association of professional interior designers in the country. It has affiliations with international

associations and is a frequent participant in important exhibitions conducted by prestigious organizations.

With close to 500 members, the PIID can surely benefit from knowledge of the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System's important components. After all, the finest quality designed interiors deserve long-term protection, especially from voracious termites. With Sentricon becoming an integral part of every design project, homes or businesses are well secured from damaging termite infestation.

Complete system

Sentricon is a complete system designed to protect the home by wiping out the entire

termite colony.

Sentricon not only wipes out the entire termite colony, but the system also ensures monitoring devices are placed strategically to intercept any future colonies that might invade the home—thus affording long-term protection from these harmful elements.

On top of this, Dow Agro-Sciences selected only the most reliable and professional pest control operators in the industry who were the only ones authorized to use Sentricon. This ensures that only the highest standards of service are afforded to Sentricon customers. Even Sentricon technicians received various trainings and updates to keep them abreast and at par with their western counterparts.

Environment-friendly

Sentricon is also the only termite control product to earn the US government's top environmental honors, the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. This highly environmentally responsible product uses chemicals only where termites are present. The treatment contraptions are also properly sealed and discreetly placed so it is safe to have around children or even pets. Sentricon also requires no drilling, digging or voluminous chemical application.

For meticulous interior designers that take every project a challenge, using Sentricon ensures every fine point of their concept remains intact. After all, as PIID president Gerry Contreras stressed, "A home or business is an important investment. It really pays to seek help from professionals to achieve quality in a project. Having a good interior designer to make the most of one's budget, makes a lot of difference."

And keeping one's home protected from termites through Sentricon makes it even better! Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System has been proven safe and effective against termite infestation.

Frustrated with termites? To know more about Sentricon, please call at 638-2566, 842-4724, 728-3174 and 850-4880 or visit www.sentricon.com.



ANOTHER house protected by Sentricon

Greenfield City gets ahead with new interchange

THE ROAD leading to Santa Rosa is no longer slow and busy with the recent opening of the ABI-Greenfield Interchange in Malilnit town.

The 10-kilometer circumferential road provides light and safe passage to what is seen as the burgeoning economic zone in South of Manila. It proved a most convenient alternate route for residents, employees and transients.

Lucrative opportunities

Just one of the two mapped out infrastructure projects within this part, the ABI-Greenfield Interchange is seen to create lucrative opportunities to benefit residential, business and commercial communities here.

This infrastructure project spearheaded by Greenfield Development Corp. (GDC) and Asia Brewery Inc. (ABI), in cooperation with the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and Philippine National Construction Corp. is likely to spur growth as it offers easy mobility of commodities, services and workers.

Even property developments are deemed promising. Greenfield City, one of GDC's anchor projects in Laguna, is raring to take on the important changes the new interchange brings to its core undertakings.

"More than accessibility, it opens up our market to nearby towns and municipalities," says Duane Santos, GDC vice president.

With the expected influx of people from all parts of Laguna, Paseo de Santa Rosa, its retail/commercial component, will be opening new branded factory outlets for value-added shopping. Says Santos: "We had excellent

response for our existing outlets and we want to maintain that by offering new brands at heavily discounted prices throughout the whole year."

Twelve new bars and restaurants are also seen to create bigger excitement to the frequented venue for quality dining and entertainment.

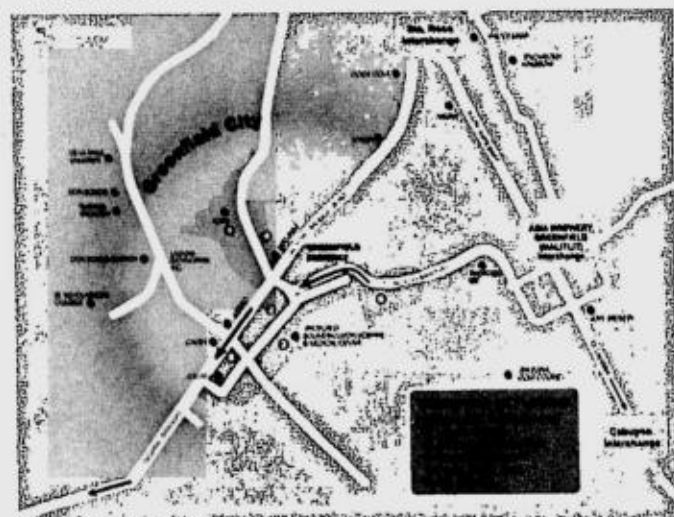
Great takeoff point

Santos says Paseo de Santa Rosa will be a great takeoff point for an intended shopping mall across dubbed as Laguna Central. Says Santos: "This of course, will cater to a different market. Paseo de Santa Rosa has its distinct charm that many patrons came to love. Those wanting to enjoy a relaxing outdoor lifestyle can go to Paseo de Santa Rosa. Others more attuned to a typical mall environment may opt for Laguna Central."

For Greenfield Automall, Santos says GDC is closing in on several dealers and retailers of automotive spare parts and accessories. "We have a standing invitation to select industry players and the response thus far has been very promising," he says.

Santa Rosa Business Park, which had excellent take-up from locators, will be just as busy upon completion of the Southern Luzon Medical Hospital. While the first residential project in Greenfield City, The Garland will be launched on the third quarter this year.

As ABI-Greenfield Interchange works for improved travel efficiency throughout Laguna, it establishes Greenfield City as highly viable for investors especially so, with its robust property development undertakings.



VICINITY map of Greenfield City

How to profit from the \$27-B Fil-Am market

DO you own any one of these: a law or accounting firm; an engineering and consulting group or perhaps a hospital in Metro Manila or in any key city of the country?

In his book, *How To Profit from the \$27-B Filipino American Market*, the author Ed Pascual (812-4872) who is also a Filipino-American CPA/realtor, tells of the numerous opportunities to local professional firms that may want to establish links with thousands of Fil-Ams in the United States. Many of them want to come back to invest and own businesses here as a result of the recently passed dual citizenship law.

For possible tie-ups

There are many Fil-Ams who are practicing accountants in the United States and are looking for possible tie-ups, investments or outright acquisition of medium-sized accounting firms here.

Most of them are now in their retirement years but are still very sharp and active. They have expressed to the author their desire to reestablish their professional practice here.

Infusion of capital

Once they come in as investors or partners, they can bring in their wealth of knowledge, experience and insights they gained overseas in addition to the much-needed infusion of capital to finance growth and expansion.

Moreover, with the many contacts and connections they built up over the years, they can even facilitate multimillion dollars outsourcing contracts for local partners.

Filipino professional firms seeking possible tie-ups with thousands of Fil-Ams in the United States may contact the office of the author and request for more information.

Service stations not just fuel providers

From page B3-1

Total decided on adopting a French Mediterranean motif—use of varied earth colors, stone walls, tile roofs and even a wishing fountain.

"The designers were inspired by the architecture found in Provence, a southern region in France. The natural beauty of that region—primarily influenced by the Greeks and Romans—has left the area with a unique look that includes walled hill towns, triumphal arches, amphitheatres, coliseums, arenas, bridges and aqueducts. This is what we recreated here," reveals Quizon.

Inspired to follow

Even the store locators were inspired to follow the design of their interiors to the general motif.

"One can enjoy the ambience wherever he or she may go: Bonjour (convenience store), Chowking, Seattle's Best, Greenwich, Jollibee, Sakon Thai Noodle Express (kiosk) or Fruitaz (kiosk)," enumerates station manager Nori Magsadia.

She relates that service stations, specially along a major artery, have to provide not only the basic services but other amenities as well.

"We are just following what our customers would like to see and experience in a service station. In fact, we even added a children's playground and activity center for our younger clients."



THE SERVICE station even added native craft souvenir corner.



EVEN locators followed the service station's overall motif.

PROPERTY

The right business location

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

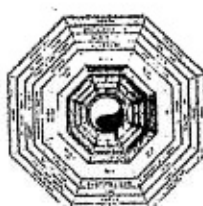
WHERE to set up is one of the most crucial things to consider when putting up a business. Location undoubtedly can make—or break—a business, serving as an advertisement itself.

The right location will have commuters always passing by your office or shop giving your business free publicity and even if they do not avail of your business' services immediately, the chances of their entering your office or shop in the days to come are most likely.

Feng shui practitioner and writer Zaihong Shen tells us that in China, a location is considered lucky for business if it encourages the flow of favorable chi (energy). Shen shares with us some examples of advantageous business locations:

- **Corner location.** Since the Chinese treat roads as waterways, corners are seen as places where "water gathers" which means a good thing in feng shui. According to Shen, a corner location is a place that is continually fortified by fresh, strong and beneficial chi.

- **Near a subway entrance.** Underground trains symbolize the earth dragon, a lucky



FENG SHUI

Therefore, this spot believed to be abundant in active energy is also considered to be largely favorable so an establishment located on the same block or across the street from a subway entrance is also believed to be very lucky.

Shen, however, warns future business owners against setting up directly above a subway entrance because the vibration that may be caused by the passing underground trains can upset an office's or a store's energy and agitate employees.

Would-be business owners should also be aware of unpropitious business locations. Shen cautions against putting up offices or stores at the following sites:

- **Facing an oncoming road.** Feng shui theory strongly advises its practitioners to avoid poison arrows which cause unfavorable energy.

- **At the dead-end of a road.** A building at

dragon that resides below ground, for the Chinese. In feng shui theory, the entrance leading to an underground train symbolizes the dragon's mouth where the underground dragon inhales and exhales energy.

a road's dead-end traps the "poison chi" where it also stagnates and which, in turn, leads to high employee turnover, low worker morale and financial instability.

- **Next to a bridge.** The Chinese believe that a bridge drives energy to travel quickly from one place to another. Businesses placed next to a bridge, therefore, are believed to fall from lack of chi due to the fast movement of energy.

Feng shui masters, though, differ when it comes to deciding if it is fortunate for business owners to set up a business under bridges. Some feng shui experts say that an office or shop located under a bridge will be able to benefit from the great amount of energy passing overhead. While some counter that a bridge—a heavy object—above a building will give off oppressive energy that will weaken the business.

- **Next to, near or facing a place of worship.** Most of us grew up thinking that it is favorable to be located next to a church, a temple, a mosque or whatever place of worship. Feng shui theory, however, believes otherwise. Traditional Chinese believe that religious buildings create such strong spiritual energy that may overpower the active energy necessary for a business to flourish.

E-mail comments at fengshui.inquirer@gmail.com.



THE MARINE Tower (far right), hovering above Yokohama, Japan, like a watchful guard at night.

World's tallest lighthouse

TOURISTS at Yokohama, Japan, are given a very good alternative if they want an aerial view of the city. It's from the observatory of the Marine Tower, the tallest aboveground lighthouse in the world.

The steel lighthouse at Yamashita Park stands 348 feet high and has a visibility range of 32 kilometers. It has an observation tower 328 feet above the ground from which one can have a great view of Yokohama Port, the Landmark Tower and the accompanying Minato Mirai 21 development, the Bay Bridge, downtown Yokohama and even of Mount Fuji.

It has a power of 600,000 candelas (a candela is a basic unit of luminous intensity).

Completed in 1961, the lighthouse was built to commemorate the centennial of the first recorded trade between Yokohama and the West.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Windows that last for generations

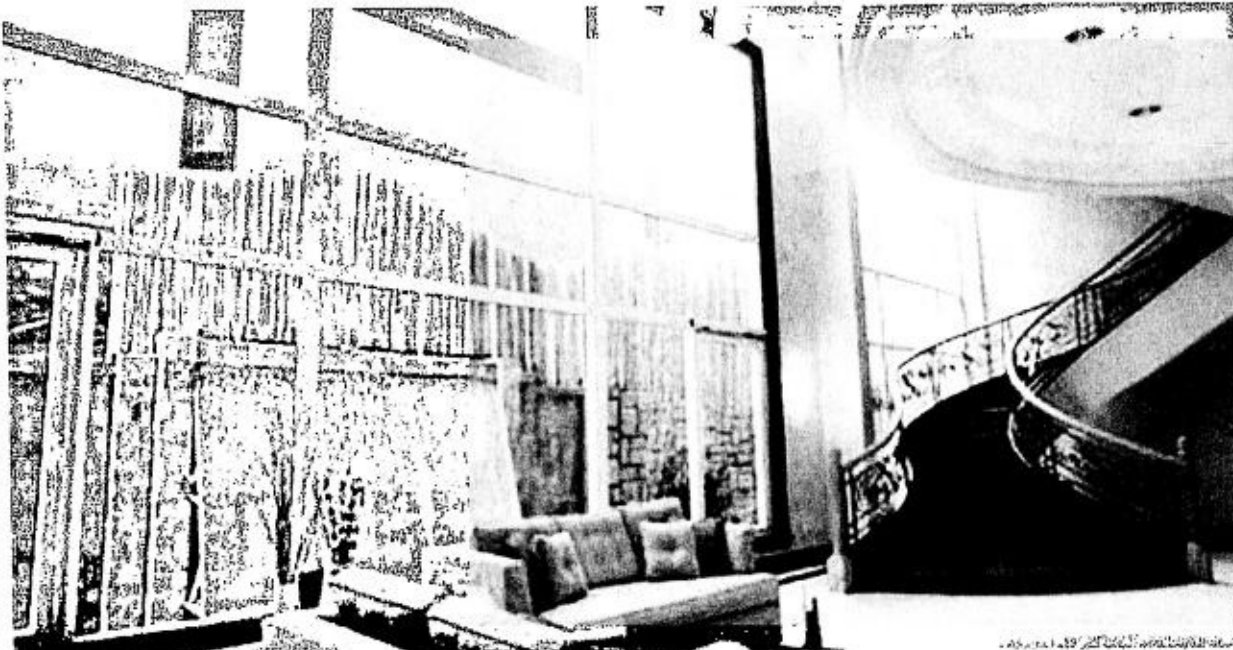
THE PAST years have witnessed the rise in the use of polyvinylchloride (PVC-U) windows by residential houses and companies. These are made of highly-durable thermoplastic synthetic material and are popular in the European countries.

Kenneth & Mock Designs Inc. is the market leader in providing quality and genuine European window and door products and accessories to the local market.

First to offer

Founded in 1997 by Filipino and Swiss partners, it revolutionized the window industry by being the first to offer world-class quality PVC-U windows and doors from Germany that are rot-resistant, almost maintenance-free and can practically last a lifetime.

"Seven years ago, when architect Delfin Viola III recommended Kenneth & Mock windows, it didn't take long for me to decide. I am grateful today that I made the right decision. Whenever my friends admire my house, they never fail to mention the Kenneth



& Mock windows that provide useful functionality in the most esthetic sense," shares Johnlu Koa, founder and CEO of The French Baker.

Says Kenneth Lao, president of Kenneth & Mock: "When we entered the business, Kenneth & Mock provided a refreshing alternative to architects, designers and homeowners with superior windows giving our clients their best value for money. We have elevated the standards of PVC-U windows to an international level."

Brand of choice

At present, most of the company's clients are residential houses and big corporations. Kenneth & Mock window and door systems are also the most sought-after in the construction industry, being the brand of choice among architectural firms, contractors and home owners.

The company successfully captured the high-end residential

market, occupying a major share of what once used to be an "aluminum-dominated market." The products can suit every customer's design preference, style (available colors are ivory, golden oak and mahogany) and budget.

Kenneth & Mock has partnered with Kommerling, Europe's market leader in the PVC-U window and door profiles sector. All Kommerling profiles use calcium zinc-based stabilizers, making Kenneth & Mock windows the only lead-free window in the country. In addition, Kommerling is the only European manufacturer that extrudes profiles with Komalit Z, a material compound that makes it suitable for our tropical weather and can withstand harmful UV rays. They also provide maximum water tightness, having been successfully used in areas near salty

coastal environments and typhoon zones.

Comfort and security

More than the esthetic appeal that the window and door systems offer, it is the comfort and security that mean a great deal to users. All Kenneth & Mock windows and doors are steel reinforced for strength and are always internally-beaded for security.

The company also pioneered the introduction of multipoint locking mechanism from Roto-Frank Hardware systems of Germany to ensure increased security and protection. Like-

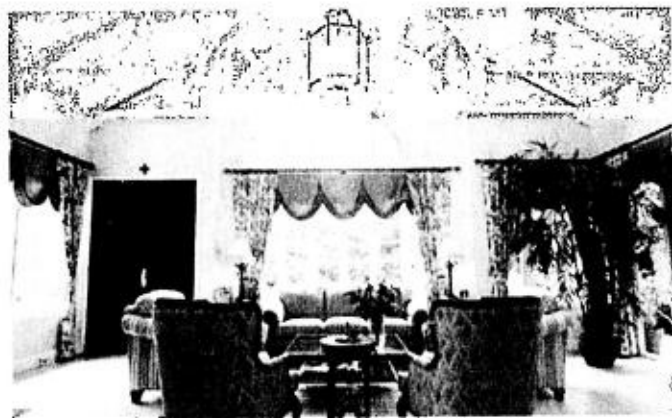


GIVING utmost comfort and convenience, as well as beauty to your homes

GIVING your home the elegance and style it highly deserves

wise, it also initiated the use of synthetic rubber EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) on both sash and frame for maximum tightness against the elements and provide optimum sound reduction.

Kenneth & Mock customers are very satisfied not only with the product but most especially the after-sales service; this sets them apart from the rest of the players. Thus, they themselves have become the company's partners, giving business referrals and opportunities.



GIVING your home the elegance and style it highly deserves

Realty broker's licensure exam set

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection has scheduled another licensure examination for real estate brokers on May 29. Successful examinees will qualify for licensing as real estate brokers.

In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate today released the schedule of its upcoming Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review that will be taken for a complete preparation for the DTI-supervised broker's licensure examination.

The Saturday section is scheduled on April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. while the Tuesday section will be on April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, same time. All sessions will be held at the Max's Restaurant, Galleria 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Both section includes a general review on the last day.

Topics

The CRES will cover DTI rules and regulations, real estate finance, economics and accounting, National Code of Ethics, subdivision

development, real estate appraisal, real estate assessment, real estate taxation and problem solving with E-VAT.

Other topics are site verification and survey, legal aspects of sale, mortgage and lease, fundamentals of property ownership, guide on Pag-Ibig housing loans, CARL with Republic Act 7279 (Udha), HLURB rules with ecology and zoning, condominium concepts, documentation and registration and real estate brokerage practice.

Lecturers

Lawyer Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, the same team that produced a record passing rate of 92 percent, will lead experts and authorities in their respective field on the lectures on subjects prescribed by DTI.

Cruz was first and eighth placer in the realty appraisers and brokers board exams, respectively. He was recognized as a Real Estate Fellow by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For more information, interested parties may call 681-0928 or text 0916-4269174 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Realtors board holds 46th anniversary

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. yesterday held its 46th anniversary celebration at the Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati Avenue, Makati City, with the theme, "Realtors: Strengthening Partnership with the Public Sector." This year the board is headed by president Wilfredo C. Manzon.

The PMRB is an association of allied real estate professionals and is a founding member of the Philippine Association of Realtors Boards

Inc. (Pareb), which is an affiliate of National Association of Realtors-USA (NARUSA), the exclusive franchisee of the designation "Realtor."

The guest of honor and speaker was Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay.

Other program highlights included the induction of new PMRB members and recognition rites of the successful examinees who passed the real estate broker's licensure examinations.

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Asian cities such as Beijing, Jakarta, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Holistic and master-planned residential enclaves are interconnected with bigger enclaves that host hospitals, schools, malls, office buildings, recreation centers and modern technological parks. With less time navigating through traffic and more time devoted to enjoying the finer things in life, satellite city residents lead quality lifestyles daily."

constantly rejuvenated workforce. Ng asserts, "South Forbes is ideal for companies like Cathay Land which believe that people are their best assets. The City hosts various entertainment, leisure, and sports options for residents to unwind after a day's work. Landscaped parks, clean rivers, and lush greeneries are perfect to spending quality time with the family. Plus, a golf course will also rise for our residents' utmost enjoyment and to test their mental abilities."

Businessmen and corporations consider a number of factors on where to set up their shops or offices. Proximity to clients is one. The availability of major infrastructure such as roads, air or sea ports, abundant electricity, and communication lines, is another. A major consideration is the presence of a continuously growing population that will require ever changing products and services.

Leading property developer Cathay Land is set to make this breakthrough concept a reality in the Philippines. Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng explains, "The satellite city concept has been warmly embraced by residents and businesses in other

Situated over 250 hectares of a raw, unspoiled environment, South Forbes Golf City is the first satellite city to open business opportunities for companies big and small in the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay industrial hub. The main commercial avenue will give rise to office towers. Cyberparks with the latest high-tech communications facilities will be home to call centers, I.T. companies and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms. After office hours, a stable working client base will flock to restaurants, convenience shops, and beauty cum fitness centers. Needless to say, related small and medium enterprises can take advantage of South Forbes and the vicinity's growing population. The biggest come-on for businesses, however, may be the city's

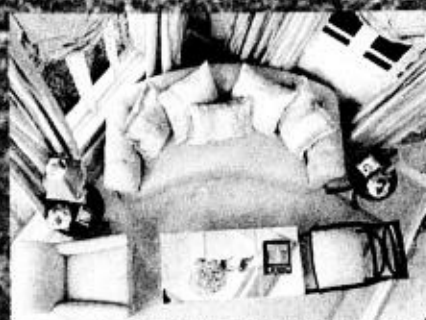
"With inspired, contented individuals reporting for work daily, teams will perform better. Customers will be greeted warmly and served promptly. Executives and business owners can map corporate plans better after a good round of golf. With all of these people elements coming together, it will not be long before companies post outstanding results," he proudly forecasts.

For any astute businessman, South Forbes Golf City beholds a golden opportunity not to be missed. Business, home, and leisure come together in harmony in this idyllic setting. To learn more about the myriad advantages South Forbes Golf City has in store for your enterprise, please dial (02) 635-8108.

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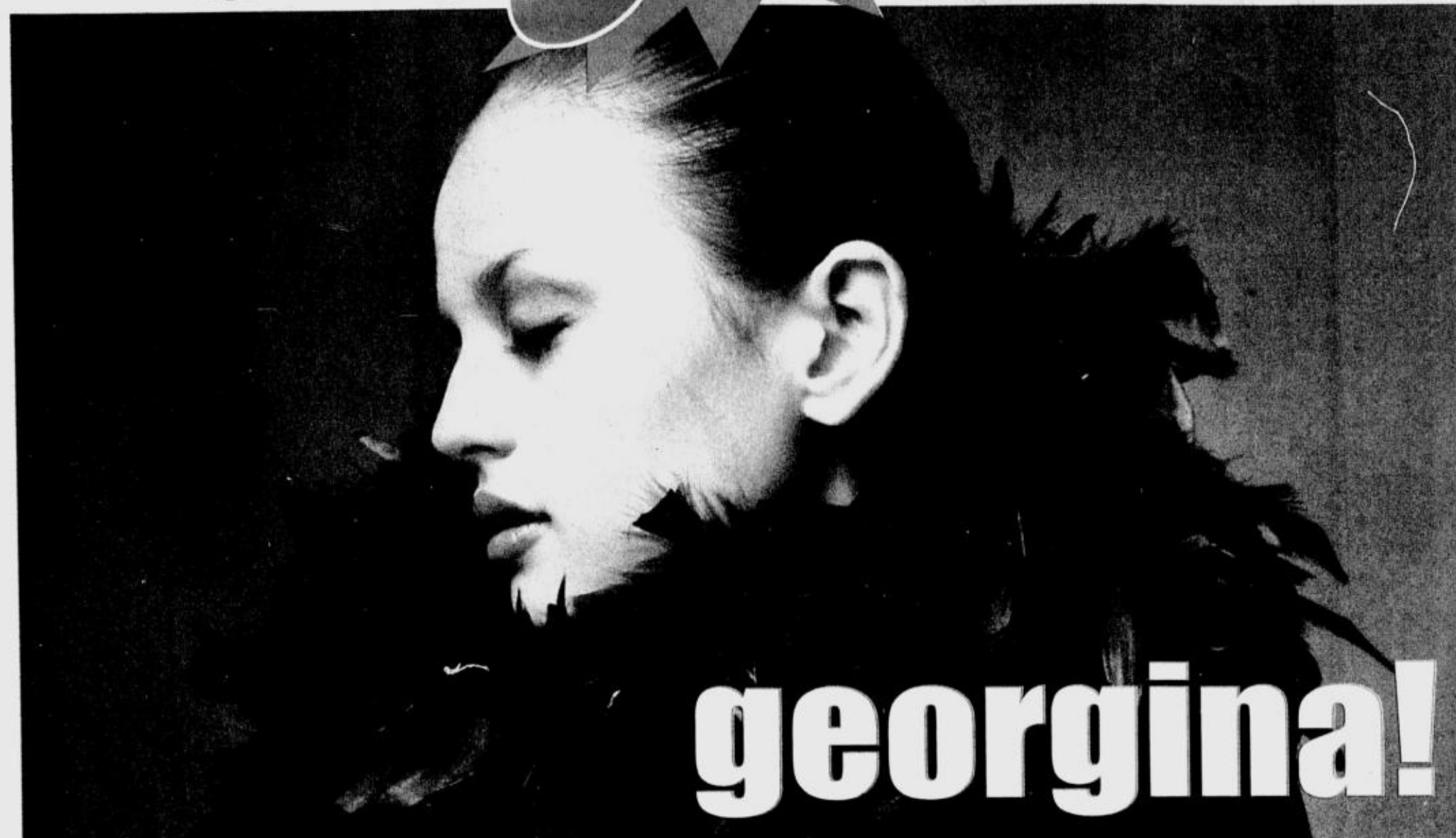
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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

pop culture . entertainment . recreation



georgina!

Super exclusive!
on Apl. de .ap
page F1

Sarah Meier's
hip hoppin'
page E2 **world**

Georgina Wilson,
'it' page D2
Ornusa Cadness,
'anti-it'

Celebs' Sony
snapshots
from Fashion Week
page C3

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: MARK NICDAO
Styling: ROSARIO HERRERA
Makeup: BEM ABELEDA
Cover Star:
GEORGINA WILSON

Oh caption, my caption!

By Gino de la Paz

HEY HEY hey! Someone's going on a trip real soon and all he had to do was pause, focus and throw down a caption (or three) for last week's blazing photo. So, Michael Domingo, round up your tightest bud/girlfriend/whoever because you just won a SuperFerry travel certificate for 2! Isn't it awesome to get free stuff? Like, it's Christmas in April! Sorta. Well before I trail off again, please call our Marketing peeps at 897-8808 to claim your prize. No, I didn't spell that wrong. I was speaking Snoop. Like, Dogg. Anyway, you can choose from the following SuperFerry destinations: Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Coron, Dumaguete, Puerto Princesa, Surigao or Tagbilaran.

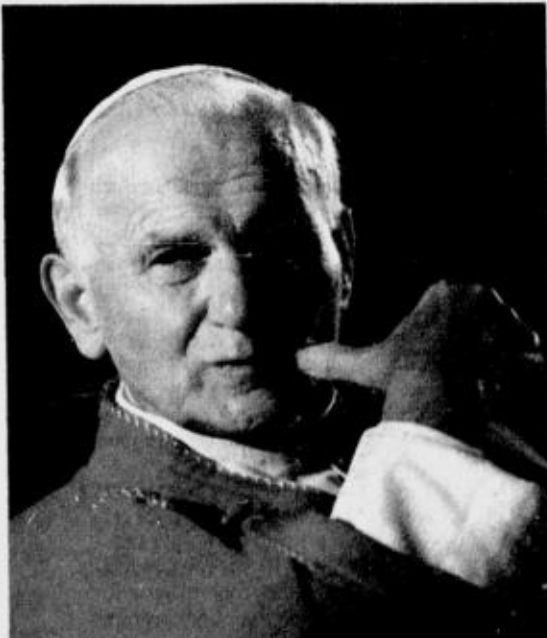
Here are a couple more captions that burned us, but in a good way:
Caption: Hala buga!
Sender: Chinkai Rosario
Caption: Wait till you see what comes out of the other end...
Sender: Dominique Gerald M. Cimafranca



Winning caption: "The eruption of MOUTH Pinatubo!"
Sender: Michael Domingo

This Week's Tribute

Okay, we've never ever done this but this week, we have to make an exception. Since we'd really like to join the rest of the world in giving props to Pope John Paul II but have no flags to put at half-mast, we'll do it the Super! way instead. So cheer up, get cracking and think of the best captions to send him off to that great big party in the sky. Holla back at super@inquirer.com.ph or key in inquirer sup name/age/city/caption to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). Like this week's big dawg, next week's winner will also walk away with a travel certificate for two from SuperFerry. See ya next week! Goodbuzzle.



Super!'s caption: Pope Idol

Anong next sa winners ng COFFEE-MATE Text what's Next promo?

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Winner of 10,000 each!

Hubert Tirazona - 1991 Veterans Ave., Katibo, Alkan

Sheila Sulza - 98 Sto. Tomas, Calapan, Laguna

Judith Malalis - 73 Gen. Malvar St., Cabuyao, Laguna

Santiago Pacis, Jr. - A28K La Naval Ext., Sangley Pt., Cavite City

Ruth P. Vinas - 08 San Isidro St., Brgy. Rizal Ph. Lopez, Quezon

Vicky Vallejo - 95 Union Civic St., Gaisan, Quezon City

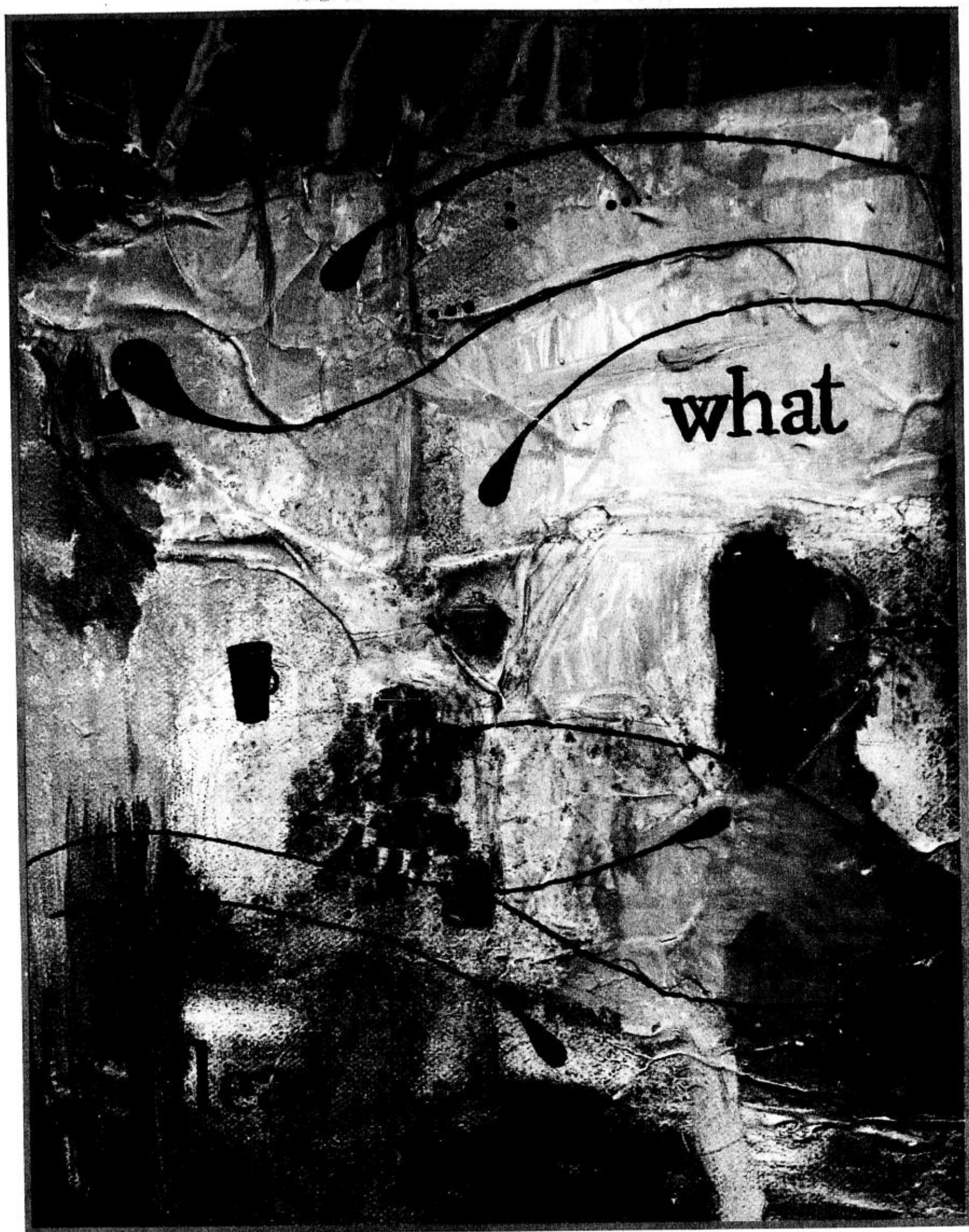
Alell de la Paz - 28 Apo St., Montana Subd., Montalban Rizal

Rita Frias - Camarin Kalookan City

Ma. Hazel M. Hernandez - 39 Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna

Clarence Recto - Purok 2 Sampalok, Tanay, Rizal





Totally eclipsed

The sky can tell you more than the rain or sunshine

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

AH... THE WEEKEND once more. Summer has started and thankfully, the island of Boracay has not sunk under the weight of the sun-worshippers, sun-evaders and sunset fixated photographers who landed on its shores. Our world, along with other heavenly bodies, (planets not Vicki Belo endorsers) seems to revolve around the Sun; it is, for the most part, the center of our celestial universe, and can dictate how people schedule their activities. Nobody wants to work on a Sunday, which is often viewed as a day of rest.

Today though, the Sun is about to be eclipsed, literally and figuratively by the original lady of the night, The Moon. The purpose of this editorial is to raise awareness of the relevance of the moon and its varying stages of waxing and waning and how one can use these energies to move forward, to gain more self awareness, and for most people, just to "shake them up a little." Bear in mind that my studies come from personal experience and self study

of astrology, which at most, offers "possibilities" and in no way promises a fixed destiny. In this life, one is always granted free will.

A quick lesson: There is the New Moon phase (when the moon starts off like a crescent) and the self-explanatory Full Moon. When the moon is new it "waxes," (approaching full moon status) this is often the best time for you to start something new, take a risk. A full moon on the other hand, symbolizes the culmination or end. These moon phases occur every month, so you basically have one chance to get things moving and growing on a regular basis. This April though will be slightly different, as the moon comes equipped with a "turbo-boost." More on that later.

Maximum potency

The New Moon started on April 8, but to be precise, it hit our part of the world at 4:37 a.m. this very morning, the full moon will reach maximum potency on the 24th late evening. (Yawn) and so what? So everything. If you want something new to happen in your life, if you want a project you have been dreaming of to move, it's best to start presenting these new ideas or striving for goals within the weeks that the moon grows from New to Full. For example, if you have wanted to start an exercise regime or lose some weight, the time to enroll in a class, gym, begin a dietary program is TODAY! And if you want to see results, continue till well after the Full Moon, as it reveals the "fruits" of your labors.

Still there? The presence of the ECLIPSE

adds to the potency of the moon although they only occur about twice a year. Eclipses bring to your attention (sometimes through a very dramatic event) what you need to focus on in your life at present. Even if you are NOT affected directly by the eclipse (and this is based on what month you are born in) you will notice that there are MAJOR events happening in the world around you. If the eclipse does not bring MONUMENTAL news to you it will to the rest of the world and people around you.

The eclipses are said to be the "wild cards" of the zodiac. They reveal things about situations and people to you that will "force" you (not always subtly) to make crucial decisions, often times WAY before you are prepared to. (Hence the term, turbo-boost). Choices made by everyone in general will affect the world as a whole, even if on the onset it seems like something so personal and intimate. To make this more relevant let me show you some examples. For those cynics out there bear with me a moment, you might just learn something, whether you agree with it or not.

Solar eclipse

Last week saw the passing of the Pope and millions witnessed his burial yesterday. That means an "end" right? Yes and no, the end of his tenure, yes, which has set into motion the selection process for his successor, right on the onset of the New Moon. Throw in the Solar Eclipse, and you and more variables are added to the

mix. The new pope and what he stands for and represents, be he pontiff of the developing world or a doctrinal conservative, will impact the world in a major way, and I do mean the WHOLE world. The Vatican must make its announcement no SOONER than April 17, roughly a week prior to the Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse.

Revelations

Nationwide, high school graduates are storming major universities in order to register and enroll. The first three weeks of April are all about them choosing which school, which course, what time, what professor, etc., Is it coincidence that enrollment normally falls around a new moon, and that universities "close" by full moon? This month is no exception coupled and with the eclipse, the choices a student makes may possibly, for many years irreversible. Many people stay in professions unhappy or unfulfilled because they feel obligated to stick to what they learned in school. The industries they choose to eventually support will impact as in the future as well.

There is not enough space for me to fully explain the nuances (although they will certainly be felt) of the eclipse. I can only share this, be aware that eclipses bring forth revelations that may prove cataclysmic to your future. Take a step back as a situation is brought into full light, so you may gain more understanding of it, and assess wisely what to do next. By the light... of the silvery moon...

Jenni Epperson

Rosario Herrera



WALKING through the narrow red carpet: trailblazing ramp diva; an editor's nod; friends on the VIP row



WHITE romantic; tall girls can strut; wrap me as a gift; starring Sony Wega, on your screens now; models on attention, not detention



Colby Montero



FROM a parade of well-heeled beauties; to high-heeled glamour; to big, big hair; water fountains flowing; and clothes overflowing



Fashion weeks are made of tease...

By Tim Yap
Photos taken using Sony Cyber-shot T7

I MISSED the entire Fashion Week and didn't realize it. Now don't get me wrong, I got down with a bottle of high fever... what with the heat of the cameras, my apologies, my friend the designer, I am just going to have to set an appointment with you sometime soon.

Thank God I have friends who made sure to record last week's moments. Jenni Epperson, Rissa Samson, Rosario Herrera and Colby Montero all ran to my bedside and shared with me their Sony Cyber-shot T7 snapshots—a heel, an eye shadow and loads of clothes, clothes and clothes. This new marriage of technology and fashion brought Sony and this event closer than ever, like long-lost sisters eager for each other's embrace. From Day 1, all of Sony's Grand Wega sets replaced the Video Walls' spot on stage. The image beamed of course through Sony Handycams' gold standard of Carl Zeiss lenses, sent the gold rush for the designer fashion parade that ensued.

At the culminating event, Jenni, Rosario, Rissa and Colby showed off their 5-time global image bites to the Fashion Week crowd. Aside from them and their images, the mutant headcrabber was the oh so slim culprit of their fashion whims—the sleek, thin Sony Cyber-shot DSC T7.

So just like the camera that captured these moments, fashion's mantra remains: You can never be too rich or too thin.
—Rose, P.O. Box 100, Cebu

MY SISTER'S eye shadow: from backstage to onstage, to after party with my twin bro Robby and co-model Joe Vince from Cebu



Rissa Samson

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La-goth ka!

MIRROR, mirror on the ball. Spherical pendant from Mildred's Jewelry



FANCY strings. Black shirt and suit, gold ties and silver chains by Filigrenasia.

By Pam Pastor
Photos By Becky Van Ommen

"[Goth] is the ability to find the art where art seems to be lacking; to find the light in the darkness and embrace it for all its worth..."

— Jennifer Mason

Ready, set, goth.
Goth has grown from being a component of the punk rock scene into an alternative sub-culture.

Starting in Batcave, a nightclub in London, the movement spread to the United States and to the rest of the world.

Goth music, goth fashion, goth movies, goth clubs—is goth food next in the picture?

While their numbers keep growing, all is not happy in this dark and mysterious world. Followers of the goth movement have fallen victim to countless stereotypes, being labeled and dumped into boxes by many. Many believe that goth is synonymous to depression, violence, drugs, suicide, vampirism and satan worship when in reality, a lot of people who call themselves goth are really just into the music and fashion.

It seems that people who wear color find it easy to blame the evils of this world on those who wear black.

There is so much of this subculture left to understand, so many differences to accept and respect.

While most of us are not ready to take the plunge into the goth life, dressing the part is a hundred times easier.

If you're in the mood to shock, here's a quick shopping list—black clothes, white makeup, black eyeliner and more metal for your piercings.

So go ahead, channel your inner Emily Strange.

In a world where too many people think they know everything about you, sometimes it's nice to be misunderstood.

MODELS: THE LATE ISABEL: WAWI, ALLAN, VAL AND JP
CLOTHES: GREENBELT SHOPPING PLAZA



PINING for the moon. Moon-shaped pendant from Mildred's Jewelry. Silver broken loop earring from Filigrenasia.



SHOW of hands. Murano glass rings and starfish pendant by Stelle e Stile Italian Accessories.

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making a great summer possible **Globe** HANDYPHONE

PHOTOGRAPHY:
MARK NICDAD
STYLING: ROSARIO HERRERA
MAKE-UP: BENI ABLEDA
OF STYLE LAB
GEORGINA WILSON

The thing about fame is that...... people who want it don't know what they're asking for.
The thing I love most about what I do is...... I get paid to sit down and let people fuss over me. I look! I'm also able to work with the most amazing and talented people, who devote their whole day to making me look good! Haha.
I also love contributing to the success of someone else's artistic vision.
People might be surprised to know that...... I love numbers, and that in such a neat freak.
The most important thing I've ever learned is that...... my own perception of myself is far more important than what other people think about me.
I wish when I started off I had been told...... to practice my angles in the mirror! Really... I still haven't though.
My Super! Saturday night consists of...... having a yummy meal in a good restaurant, watching an interesting movie or partying in embassy with my beautiful friends.
The soundtrack to my life would include...... "What A Wonderful World." This is the song that my Tita Rio loved and would make us play over and over. Another more contemporary song would be Bonnie Bailey's "Ever After" and Kylie Minogue's "Love at First Sight." I love these songs and they make me so happy. =)
The thing that makes me most angry is...... people who gossip and make rumors and judge people without knowing the real deal.
The best thing about family is that...... we're a big big family, we're all very close and we always have super good food.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say...... where did she go??
If money was no option I'd...... go shopping everyday, in different cities of the globe. =)
The world would be a much better place if...... people would stop thinking so much of themselves.
My hero is...... my late mother-in-law, Princess Diana. That's right! I'm marrying Prince William =) He just doesn't know it yet.
The thing that makes my life worth living is...... the thought that I'm able to make a difference in the world.
The worst thing somebody said about me was...... that I don't care about anything but fame since I've started modeling.
My favorite moments are when...... I say really deep words that no one else uses while we're at parties, intrinsic, enamored, etc. etc. (They all tease me and call me student. Or when people bring out the bill and say "George do the math!")
My current state of mind is...... reflective.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be...... Natalie Portman! She's my idol and I just love everything about her! I'd have to cancel the film if she doesn't accept the role. Haha.
My 5 favorite words are...... Favorite, love, random, Saturday, euphoria.
I aspire to be...... the best in everything I do.

What it feels like for a girl

Georgina Wilson is 'it' while Ornusa Cadness is 'anti-it'... both of them rule



IT'S THE hour of the girly girl. Yes, the pretty-in-pink, doe-eyed cupcakes so dainty you can wrap them in a box to signify the moment's elusive "it-ness."

How do I know that? Well, aside from references to British style Bible i-D, I have made it my personal mission to observe the women who go around the scene and sense their particular power—how they enter and affect a room filled with different people and the effect they leave long after they've made their night's exit.

After all, beautiful, strong women

have ruled Pinoy pop culture since God knows when. From the mythical Darna to the political Imelda, women have been looked up to as superheroes—out to save the world from the evil forces—or er, from the forces of ugliness.

1969 proved to be a year of triumph for Filipinos as it was a year that a certain Gloria Diaz won the Miss Universe crown. She became an instant Pinoy pop icon, with a string of movies and television credits (that spans 1969 till present) up her beauty-queened sleeve. Three decades later, another Diaz looms in the spotlight. Nope, she doesn't have any plans to join a pageant, nor does she

Tim Yap



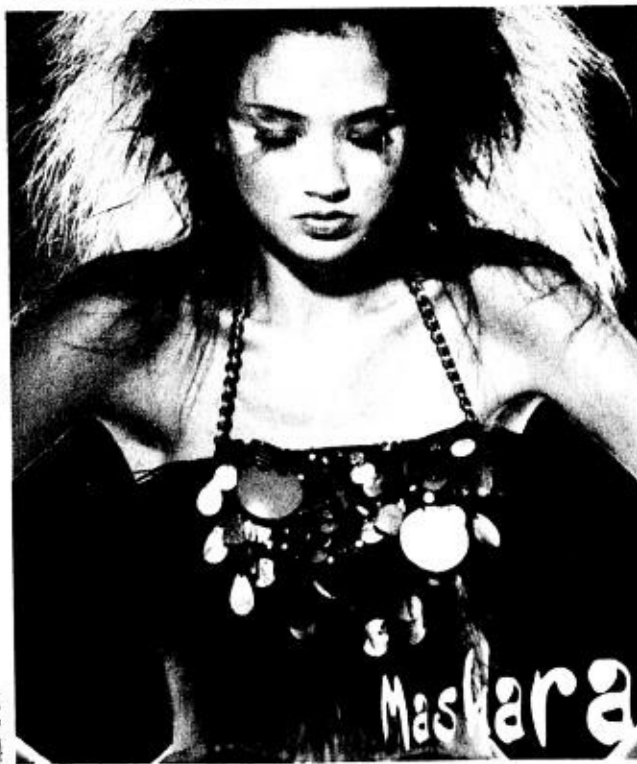
dream of entering show biz.

Ethereal bliss

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Georgina Wilson has arrived. Born to a Br dad and a Diaz mum (which is a mixture of Filipino, Spanish, etc.), she first spotted her some years back



JENNI EPPERSON'S
ATI-ATHAN COLLECTION
FOR ARANAZ BAGS
PHOTOGRAPHY
TOM EPPERSON
MAKEUP: XING ZHANG
ORNUSA CADNESS



Malate, on a night out with some of her girl friends from Assumption San Lorenzo, and right then and there I knew she had "it"—that elusive, fickle factor that makes you gasp, gush and grapple for words.

Fast forward to now and her spell has evolved into ethereal bliss. She serves as counterpoint to holder of the non-conformist beauty throne, sex symbol and party scene sensation Ornusa Cadness (who is part-Thai, part-Kiwi). Georgina is 'it' girl, while Ornusa is 'anti-it.' Very much like Gwyneth and Cate, Gwyneth and Chloe, and Gwyneth and—you get the picture.

Both can hold their own—and are on their way to their respective peaks. Each with their unique blend of charm and "I-don't-care-throw-all-caution-to-the-wind" abandon (without being girls gone wild—that's a different story). In a way, that is what makes 'it' girls. When they start caring too much, they lose 'it.'

Drop. Dead. Gorgeous.

At the Embassy VIP area, I observe Georgina and Ornusa, both causing heads to turn. Georgina is wearing a black dress embellished with silver Swarovskis while Ornusa is wearing jeans and sneakers and a tank top. Both

look DDG. Drop. Dead. Gorgeous.

These style icons-in-the-making will hog the magazines and style publications for the next few seasons, so get ready for more of them. Fashion is but a willing accomplice hungry for new muses.

"Women in general can be seen as style makers: they inspire designers and judge their work in choosing and reinterpreting fashion." So goes the gospel according to Roberto Cavalli.

Last month saw Georgina on the cover of the Philippine Tatler under "Most Eligible," while Ornusa just donned Celine Lopez's Lounger for Just Shop's sizzling summer cover. Ornusa is also

Rajo Laurel's newest muse. On this page, she plays with Jenni Epperson's "Ati-athan" bag creations for Aranaz. Ornusa is a passionate artist while Georgina is a serious student at the Ateneo and is picky with the campaigns she accepts. You'll see her mid-summer in a TV commercial that will be good for your heart.

Flex and George

21-year-old Ornusa's image has graced Super!'s pages countless times. Flex (Ornusa's nickname) is often seen in the company of boyfriend Borgy Manotoc and her sexy sister Dara Cadness. She has this naughty, sexy spicy

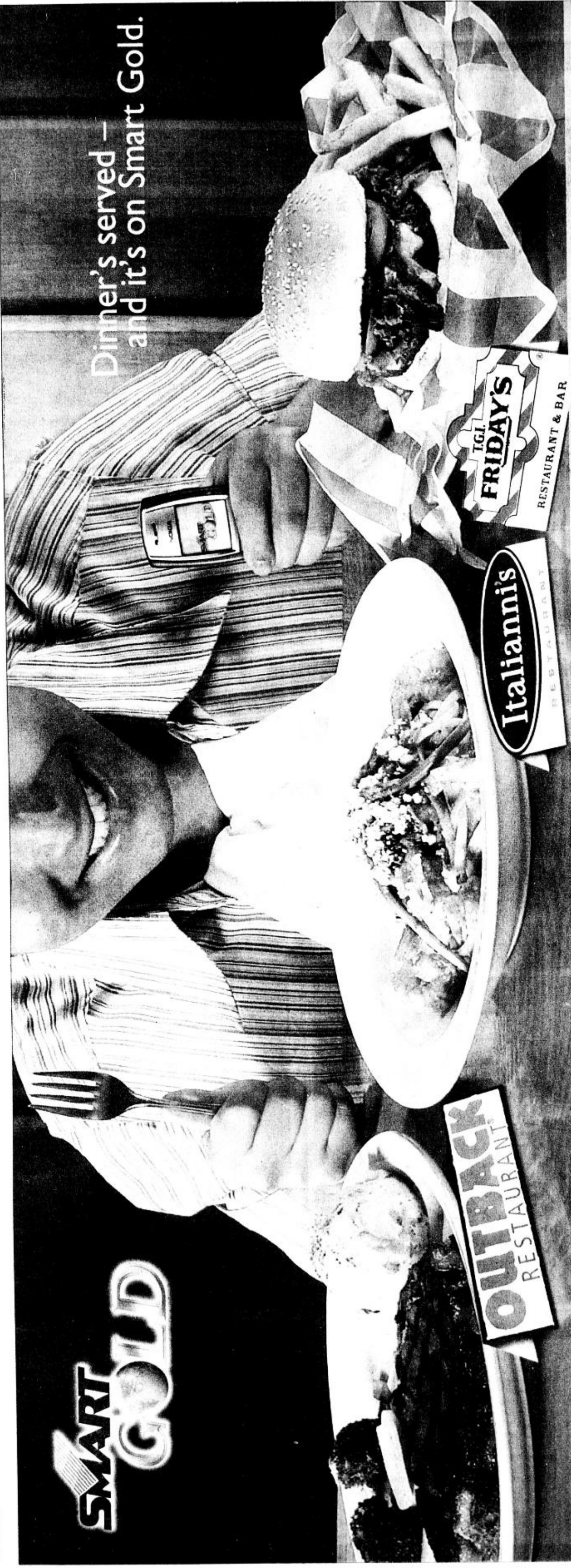
side that makes her even more va-va-voom. And with a name like that, how can you go wrong?

This week marks a Super! first. If you've noticed, we normally choose a theme for every Saturday issue. We choose the word or phrase based on our instincts on what works. We put a twist on our formula by using "Georgina"—because we believe in this debutante that much. When I saw Mark Nicdao's images, I gasped, gushed, and grappled for words.

I read somewhere that femininity is an endlessly variable option. Here are your new choices—catch them while you still can.

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T.G.I. Friday's outlets are in: Glorietta 3, Mabuhay Town Center, Tomas Morato, and Sta. Lucia (Caret). Italianni's outlets are in: Glorietta 4, Mabuhay Town Center, Greenbelt 2, Greenhills, Eastwood Hills, Gateway (Araneta Center), Tomas Morato, and SM Bacan. Outback Restaurants are in: Glorietta 4, Libis, and Mabuhay Town Center.

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PHOTOS BY GINO DE LA PAZ



Cubao-wowee!

Cubao is cool again thanks to some new kids on an old block

JUST when you thought Cubao was, like, so twenty years ago, it pulls a fast one on you, tones up, and opens a new bigwig commercial multiplex called Gateway Mall. To cop last year's Paris Hilton-induced catchphrase, "That's hot."

But enough about that Botoxed part of town. In case you're anything like me and find three-legged kittens, gap-toothed models and slight-to-moderate degrees of imperfection endearing, I grant you permission to go all cross-eyed any minute now. (Hyperventilate if you must.) You see, despite Araneta Center's modern gameface, there's still a pocket of resistance in Cubao that reeks of unconventional charm—mothballs, squid balls and all. Homies, I'd like to direct your attention to the neglected creative goldmine called the Marikina Shoe Expo!

At first glance, the Marikina Shoe Expo looks like a bonafide ghetto. (The go-to spot for bargain shoe shoppers for years, all it lacks are homeless people, a few syringes and hey, it's totally the 'hood!) But now, its positive

Age against
the machine

Gino de la Paz



pop culture chi is on the rise thanks to its fan base which has expanded to include fashion stylists, dedicated foodies and anyone who misses Malate before it sold out. Now why would a chin-stroking creative type suddenly flock to this shabby, unmanicured and as-yet-unheralded corner of the metropolis?

One really sticky afternoon, I found my debonair dirtbag self weaving through the Expo's maze of shops for some answers. Beloved by the bohemian and definitely more eccentric in attitude, here are four inconspicuous one-off shops that are slowly defining Cubao's new-generation aesthetic. Respect!

Vintage Pop

Owned by first-time businessman Bong Salaveria, Vintage Pop is jammed with out-of-the-box furniture and accessories. "It's my little contribution to the area. It started out as a plan to create an art community here," Bong says. "It has been a dream of mine to own a store like this and sell what I personally like." And what Bong likes ranges from robot collectibles and bags by Astrud Crisologo to out-of-this-world paintings and 1950's bicycles. The prices go from P200-P300 for small collectibles up to P16,000 for a vintage gas pump DVD/CD storage unit. Not bad, eh?

As someone who appreciates the colorful, the odd, and, at times, the underrated, I was drawn to Vintage Pop like a porn star to silicone. I realized a) it's a no-brainer to



open a store in a mall so b) it takes balls to set up shop in a relatively unconventional location such as the Expo. I mean, really.

So with self-expression as his primary goal, Bong says a prayer for the future. "I'd really want to see more [new] shops here soon but I also hope that [this side of] Cubao retains its bohemian character."

Shop 66, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
Open Tuesdays - Sundays 5 to 9 p.m.
Mobile +63918 500 3460
E-mail vintage_pop@yahoo.com



IF IT says Super it must be good

Datelines Bookshop

"We chose the name Datelines because we wanted it to be a place where people can go and learn something new, as a journalist does when he goes to various places to chase stories," so goes Iris Gonzales of BusinessWorld newspaper. "We" in this case refers to her and Joe Torres of ABS-CBN News.com.

The idea for the two-month-old alternative bookshop was born three years ago but only came to fruition in 2004. "We decided to finally make the dream happen in September last year when we had dinner [for the first time] at [nearby] Bellini's. We saw the charm of the [Marikina Shoe Expo] and fell in love with it. It's free-spirited and bohemian, without the distractions of commercialism," Iris recalls.

And the bookworms keep on coming. "The response has been very encouraging," she says. "Clients are as varied as our books—writers, journalists, photographers, artists, young professionals, activists, cultural workers, librarians and children." Wait, did she "activists"? G-a-n-g-s-t-a-l

Some of their hardcover books are even less expensive compared to the softbound books of the same title in other bookstores.



READ all about it at Datelines

"Our second hand books can go as low as P5 to about P200 plus," Iris discloses. "We also sell other items such as bookshelves or bookends, which can range from P300 to P2000 plus."

Iris also expects more original establishments to open shortly. "In the early '70s, Cubao was the only place. We believe it is now time for Cubao to 'reconquer' its glory."

Shop 65, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
Open Weekdays 3 to 9 p.m., Weekends 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Mobile +63917 841 4538
E-mail datelines@gmail.com



Grand Thrift House

James Yango's Grand Thrift House has a somewhat nomadic history. "We started in Farmer's Bargain Center then we moved to the area where Gateway is now. Of course, when the mall opened we had to move again. This is our third location," he says. Fortunately, their clients followed them on their journey.

Opening their doors at the Shoe Expo last December, Grand Thrift House attracts clients from students to professionals, all fascinated by the store's interesting bric-a-brac. "Our youngest client so far is a 9-year-old girl who came in with her mom," he shares.

It's no shocker since the shop has professionally appraised stocks from all over. "We sell Jose Rizal items, Marcos memorabilia, vintage Coca-Cola collectibles," James continues. "But the really popular items are old vinyl records, especially those by the Juan de la Cruz Band." I have no clue who they are but I don't think they've played with Death Cab for

Cutie or Modest Mouse. But I digress. Oops.

Prices vary from a low of P90 to north of P10,000 so there is bound to be something that would strike your fancy.

I mean, I'm the king of restraint but I nearly plunked down cash for a WWII medal as well as other things I don't need but want anyway. Just because. "After all, everyone is welcome," he concludes. Well, hooray!

Space 12, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
Open Mondays to Fridays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays to Sundays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Mobile +63920 962 3079



VINTAGE POPE.
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and other trinkets



Future Prospects

I stepped into Future Prospects not knowing exactly what it was. Or if it was even open. Next thing I knew, I was talking to Gary-Ross Pastana, one of the owners, while my eyes hopped from one quirky artwork to another. (Yeah, I have a thing for pop art. Or maybe I have ADHD.) "No, it's not an exhibit. These paintings are for a raffle on Saturday," Gary tells me.

Lightbulb! "The idea came about years ago when [other proprietors] Louie Cordero, Cocoy Lumbao and I moved out of a space along 18th Avenue in Cubao," he starts. "This was after Louie and I had an exhibit in Fukuoka [Japan] with [artist] Mizuki Endo, who ended up getting a grant to stay in the Philippines. He stayed in Big Sky Mind in 18th Avenue."

With Big Sky Mind closing, however, they needed to move and saw their existing spot in the Shoe Expo late 2004. According to Gary, Future Prospects just opened last February 19. "We had an exhibit featuring [Japanese artists] Keita Egami and Kikuko Nomi," he says.

For now, their clients are mostly other artist-friends. I repeat, for now. "They donated the paintings you saw upstairs. With a limited number of raffle tickets priced at P8,000, everyone is guaranteed to win a painting," Gary explains. Right on.

Kinda like a do-what-you-want hub of cre-



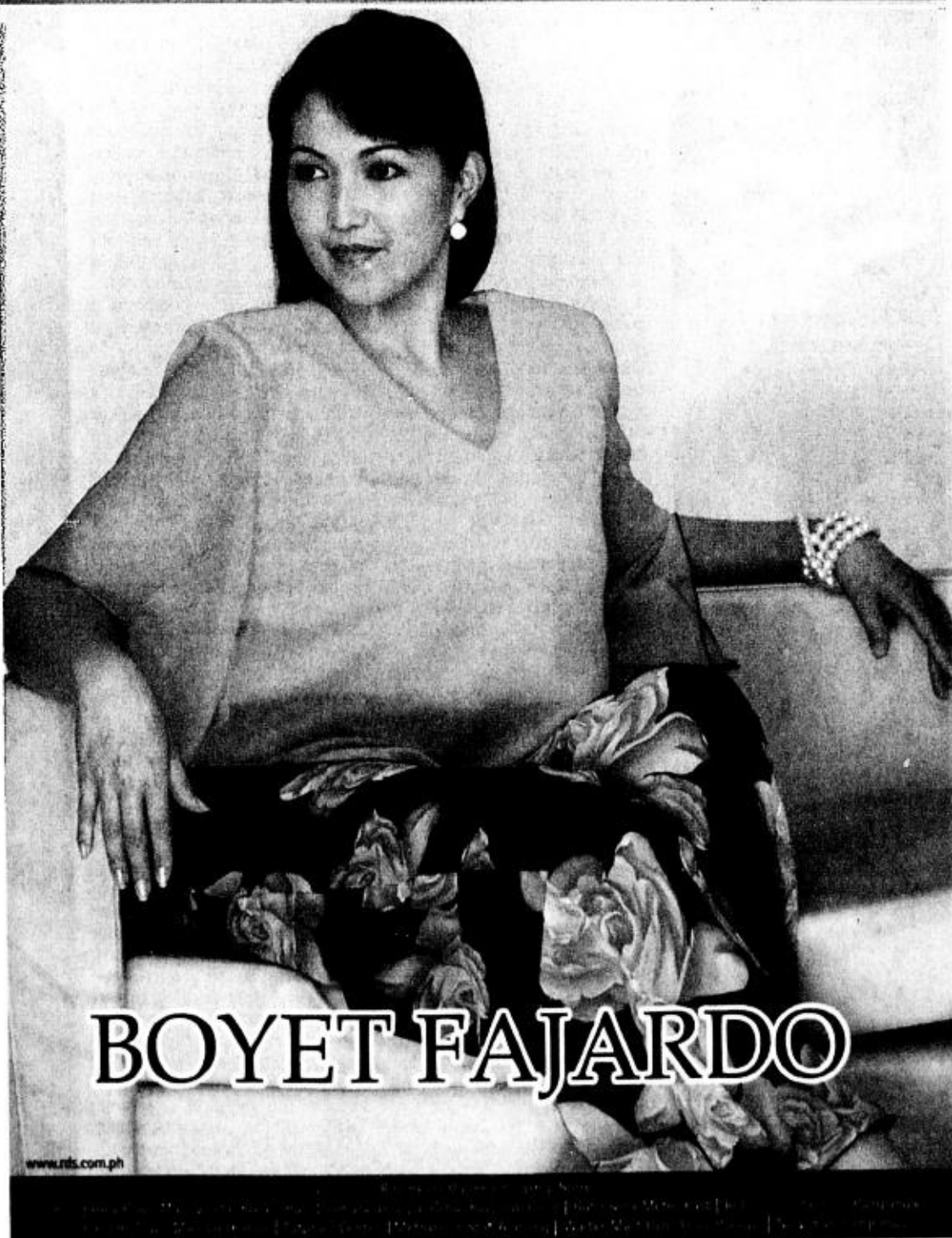
ART ATTACK.
Painting by Louie
Cordero

ativity, the peeps at Future Prospects do graphic design work as well. They also hawk pre-owned books, CDs and vinyl records. And starting April 16, Roberto Chabet will conduct art seminars.

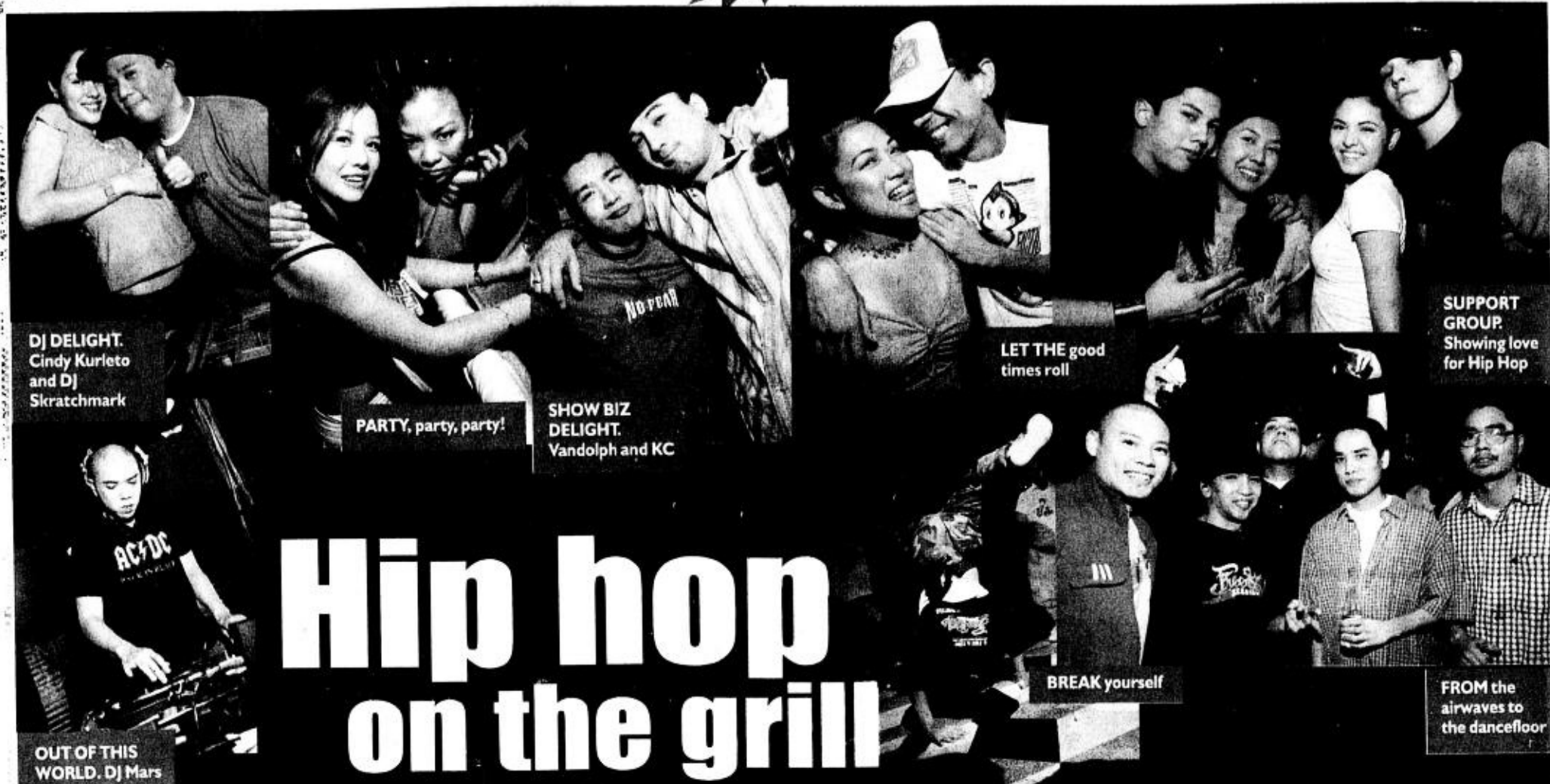
With the influx of nonconformist stores and the cross-fertilization that comes with it, Gary would still like to maintain the original character of the Marikina Shoe Expo. "I'd like to keep a healthy balance between the new establishments and the [existing] shoe stores. If it's too homogenous it becomes boring, right?" And judging by the music events they plan to hold, dubbed "Friday Musical Fascist Nights," the place will definitely be anything but.

Shop 62-63, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
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**OUT OF THIS
WORLD.** DJ Mars
volunteering his
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Hip hop on the grill

By Sarah Meier

AH, THE industry. Not even the music industry in general, but just Hip Hop. It's political, yes—and hurtfully so, when the music and movement you're referring to are supposed to stand for equality, honesty, and raw, unfiltered expression. With the resurgence of the South in the urban hit list, it seems like New York's sink or swim, ride or die, know someone or get out of my face syndrome, finally came round and bit itself in the butt. What do I mean by that? Well, the city who's streets gave birth to Hip Hop, and stand as a Mecca of 'keepin' it real', proceeded to manufacture this entity that grants entrance more selectively than the third floor VVIP room at Lotus. Fine, everyone and their mother wants to be a rapper in New York, and quantity is hardly ever quality—you could be the sickest thing to come out since Kanye and Pharell, but unless your boy from kindergarten got his foot in the door, because his baby's momma's sister from another father, was going out with somebody upstairs; then you, my friend, are relegated to standing in Union Square Park, selling your demo to oblivious passers-by.

Yet where there is main stream, there is underground, and vice versa. Which leads me to my next nugget of thought; how do you allow both to infiltrate the scene in Manila? How do you show people that Usher, no matter how much of a commodity he may be, does not embody all of Hip Hop? How do you give Manila a chance, a choice? You do what we did, and begin plotting out the importing and exporting of talent, ideas, looks, and sounds. All I have to say, is that in the side streets of the Lower East Side of New York City, there lies a cozy little spot called Bob's Lounge. A year ago, I sat in there with Banjo and conceptualized Steak Productions. Back in Manila now, the setting has changed, but the dream and the vision live on. We've brought our boy Chris onboard, flown in an insanely adept resident DJ (for more on DJ SKRATCHMARK, see insert), and have constructed everything so that 2005 is going to be ballistic. Prepare for a sensory overload.

So on that note, Steak Productions formally initiated itself into the scrutiny of Manila's one thousand and seven critics, with a three string event. Steak: The New York City Party Series, which we kicked off in the THX Cinema, Mile Long Compound on Amoroso Street, in Makati; which then made a stopover in Cebu, heating up Vudu to temperatures so high, Cebu's finest began undressing; back on over to Manila, for the one night reopening of the legendary WhereElse (Hotel Intercontinental), which housed the first ever Hip Hop Has Heart Charity party. All my love, and a genuine hug to the people that supported us in our hatching stages; Our resident DJ's Skratchmark and GetLive—who both flew in, didn't sleep for days, but ate off banana leaves for the first time, got a feel for the Philippines, and proceeded to rock the

hell out of Manila and Cebu. Locally, DJ Steve Mills and DJ Mars deserve props for busting out the LP's and contributing to our charity drive as special guests. It was all truly insane. Now, three parties into my events coordinating career, I'm beginning to put together my personal list of dope party essentials. Here's what I have so far:

1. Jay Masta and company: Always humble, never assuming, despite holding insurmountable admiration from so many people. The only B-Boy in my book that deserves a second look—Jay Masta has done the country proud by representing in international competitions, tirelessly teaching and guiding the new generation of breakdancers, and being the Kuya to a now blossoming B-Girl crew.

2. My crew: From our production manager, to the crew that constructed and painted the picture in my head into an actual set, to the boys in Tech, to the production assistants—living and breathing proof that Filipino talent, efficiency, and quality, ARE of international standard.

3. A bloody good DJ: Skratchmark and GetLive are my personal go to guys—song selection, turntable skills, audience impact, crowd reading... they both get an A+. Granted, vinyl is tough to come by in Manila, but nonetheless—if the rest of my friends in this country that spin for a living, remembered that they used to spin for the loving, our club heads would gain a broader understanding and respect for the art of DJ-ing. There would be a deeper rooted appreciation for good music, and variety would help our city reclaim its fame as one of Asia's most *hayup* nightlife destinations. Healthy competition boys and girls, is always essential for growth.

4. The Viva Hot Babes: Strange addition, but really, it's truly amazing to see the power these girls have over men. The nonchalant are obliterated to drooling, ogling High School boys, the "too cool to dance" guys morph into gyrating fiends, and everybody drinks 5 times more alcohol than they normally would. Splendid. Which leads me to...

5. ...The Beer Bong, The Beer Yard, and kegs of San Miguel: I don't care how much you adore your scotch—you're not a real man if you can't down three bottles worth of San Miguel in one gulp. The great little drinking contraptions we scooped up in Rochester, New York, proved to be the key to getting our guests smiling, and semi-soaked. Now if whoever took our little toys could only give them back...

6. The Steak dancers, plus Ken Jhon, Dash, and Paulie Smalls (honorable mention—Kathy, Sabrina, and Love-ly): We welcome anybody to get on up and get down at our parties—that's what ledges and stages are for, but if we had to choose, it's these folks that deserve all the attention. Great energy, good vibes, and a common love for the music and movement makes our personal cheerleading team the best damn hype crew in town (not to mention the best

looking).

7. The Addict Mobile VIP Area: (See #4)

8. The Steak family: The most phenomenal support team ever—patiently dealing with us in times of lack of sleep, anxiety, and irritability, and lending a helping hand wherever it was needed... (Sorting out and giving away 500 hundred Steak shirts has never been so easy)... plus—The extended Steak family: All the people that showed up early and left only after we played the last song, turned on the lights, and started cleaning up. You rock.

9. Magic 89.9 Jocks Tony and Slick: Who probably single-handedly packed up WhereElse with their shameless plugging, and played a vital role in raising 37,000 pesos and a truck full of clothes, toys and food for charity.

10. Support: Financially, or otherwise—AMP, our presenter; San Mig Light, and SMB Play, who fueled our parties; Hotel Intercontinental Manila; Vudu; Team Manila; THX; and our Official Music Channel, who else? MTV.

So there. That wraps up my little heart to heart, and concludes my adventures in and after New York City. I'll be back again soon with tales from another trip, but until then, I'll be plodding around Manila in my furry boots, buzzing with anticipation for the next PBA conference, plotting with KC on our surprise project, and scheming for Steak's Summer 2005 agenda! (P.S. Tim, I still have your coats...)



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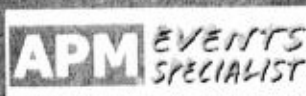
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Adidas? Sarap!

By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo
Artwork by Pepe Diokno

A DAY before he left to visit his family in Angeles, Pampanga, Super! caught up with the Black Eyed Peas' Allan Pineda (y'all may know him as APL), to talk about being Filipino, his music, and deep shit about life. (The slang is creeping in on us.)

What are you?

I'm Filipino.

What does Pinoy pride mean to you?

It's being proud of who you are. It's never forgetting your past amidst all the success. It's about helping out my family by doing what I'm doing and being proud of it.

There was an article in a magazine that said Filipinos are some of the happiest people on earth despite poverty because of our social ties. Do you agree with that?

Yeah. When I was growing up, *mahirap kami*—but I didn't feel that. *Kasi* there are so much happy things to do with my family.

Was it hard to adjust when you moved to the States—'cause they don't have ties as close as us.

I got to bring the close ties to my friends, and that's why were close—I invite them to eat home-cooked meals, watch movies, just like we Filipinos usually do. Americans are so closed—so I brought those ties to my friends.

What do you never leave home without?

My portable equipment, my laptop... So I can make music wherever I am. Are you the type of person who can't sleep unless you put an idea down?

Yeah. Definitely. What would you never wear?

A *palda*... you know, when you're *bagong tuli*. That I'd never wear.

What is the best compliment you've ever received and who was it from?

Joss Stone came up to me and was like, "You're one of my favorites!" What does the Black Eyed Peas represent?

We represent positive music with no boundaries... and open-mindedness. Why is music important?

Music is important because it's like a weapon, I can release what I feel inside. It's the most essential part of my life.

Who are your music icons?

Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, Asin and Freddie Aguilar.

What was that one song that changed your life?

The song that I dedicated to my brother—the Tagalog

ADIDAS/F3

Super!'s trippy tandem spent the weekend with Black Eyed Peas' proudly Pinoy kuya APL.de.Ap.. Here, grab a bite



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HAPPY Ferrari Fans. Weeeee. Quite opposite when the race finished.



EASY there, Trulli! Don't slap Alonso's head!

Ole! Bold! Fast! Zoom!

Grand Prix!

Chronicles
of the
Nomads'
Traveling
over
Bahrain's
deserts...
Err, I
mean—of
the
Formula
One Grand
Prix 2005.

By James Gabrillo

Ahlan Wa'shalan—no it's not the sound you produce when you try to imitate a mule—it's the locals' welcome expression that just about sums up the panorama of all that is of Bahrain. It's a hearty gesture of invitation—telling one what to expect in this land brightened by the eclectic fusion of its architecture.

But I'm here not just for its pristine diving getaways or trips to its historical museums, but because twenty of the world's finest race drivers were here to compete for a tenth of a second in the much celebrated Formula One Grand Prix.

Thursday—The Parties

Pre-race parties filled the city—there were open ones where tourists mingled with the local fans along with local food and drinks, and there were VIP ones where I got to go in to through, well, kissing ass.

First up was the Lucky Strike Bar Honda welcome party for its two drivers, the promising British Jenson Button and the very likeable crashaholic Takuma Sato from Japan. Taku can be remembered for making the F1 headlines for all the wrong reasons in 2002—him being the first rookie to crash in Australia and then bumping into his teammate Giancarlo Fisichella.

Speaking of Fisichella (nice segue, eh?), the consistently impressive Italian driver showed up in the Renault welcome party, along with his teammate Fernando Alonso from Spain who's fresh from capturing a win in the Formula One race in Malaysia just weeks ago.



FISICHELLA doing his model impersonation.



MEET my first fan as a race car driver—an Arab kid.

Friday and Saturday—The Practices

Day 1 was quiet, as expected. The circuit was being geared and dressed up for Sunday's big race. The organizers created a cool "F1 Village", a landscape of sprawling grassy areas, flowering shrubs, palm trees and benches amid a cluster of cafes, stores where one can buy Formula One merchandise and face tattoo areas. Yey.

Day 2 woke up everyone's spirits with qualifying sessions, more practice sessions and the first race for Formula BMW Asia. The intense (I mean INTENSE) heat was made more maddening by this giant man-spider-black-beast-insect on stilts. He kept on chasing people and annoying them.

Anyway, I got the best seats in town—front row Main Grandstand tickets where you have a great view of all twenty drivers fixing, preparing, and... err, lounging. A front row seat allows your eyes to feast on the awesome speed of the racers and not to mention allows your ears to stop functioning because of the loud, loud screeching sounds the racing creates. Thank you, yellow ear plugs from the airplane kit, thank you.



I ACTUALLY followed Alonso inside his car.

Sunday—The Race

The race was stunning. The grandstand was filled with 47,300 sport enthusiasts and dominated by screaming Ferrari fans, who were expecting Michael Schumacher to score another win. One of those fans was me. I thought there was no way our race hero can lose this one—he is after all the winner of more grand prix races and world championships than any other driver in F1 history. But unfortunately, that day wasn't lucky for Mikey, who suffered from hydraulics failure and was forced to drop out after just 12 laps in his new Ferrari. He has just two points after three races—his worst start for years. Ferrari's hopes with their new car's debut got lost somewhere in the shimmering desert heat. Oooh. Unlucky Schumacker. Dazed Race. Shite Sight. Have. To. Stop. Rhyming.

The young Spaniard (that sounded so Magellan-ish) Fernando Alonso, who I stalked in Thursday's Renault party, emerged triumphant for the second race in a row with remarkable flourish and fluency. Jarno Trulli



MINGLING with Taku, my Asian buddy.



RANDOMNESS in the track! Yey!



SCHUMACKY all ready in his gear. That sounded weird.

from Italy crossed the line 13.409 seconds behind Alonso to take Toyota's second top three finish in succession, while Finland's Kimi Raikkonen (who wins best name) scored a third place finish for team McLaren.

Formula One teams showed their marks of mourning for Pope John Paul II, who died the night before race day. The nose cones of Ferrari cars were black, Italian Trulli had "Thank You Pope" on his helmet, and there was no champagne spraying on the podium, aside from the fact that alcohol is forbidden in the country. Champagne was replaced by a special fruit-based carbonated drink simply called X. Oh. How X-citing. Okay, I'll stop now.

Although the Bahrain International Circuit was beaming with disappointment because of Ferrari's bad, bad finish, that didn't stop the Renault team, staff and fans to celebrate on the tracks and on the stands. Crazy supporters of Alonso were jumping jubilantly, embracing with each other, singing festive songs, dancing like there's no tomorrow—I thought to myself, someone call Olivia Newton-John in and you got the sequel to Xanadu. Okay, now I'll really shut up.

Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net

When not seeing is believing

THERE are just some crazy things that one believes in life that science or logic cannot explain. In my case, I guess, when I fell off the crazy tree, I think I hit one too many branches on the way down.

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HAPPY Ferrari Fans. Weeeeee. Quite opposite when the race finished.



EASY there, Trulli! Don't slap Alonso's head!

Ole! Bold! Fast! Zoom!

Grand Prix!

Chronicles
of the
Nomads'
Traveling
over
Bahrain's
deserts...
Err, I
mean—of
the
Formula
One Grand
Prix 2005.

By James Gabrillo

Ahlan Wa'shalan—no it's not the sound you produce when you try to imitate a mule—it's the locals' welcome expression that just about sums up the panorama of all that is of Bahrain. It's a hearty gesture of invitation - telling one what to expect in this land brightened by the eclectic fusion of its architecture.

But I'm here not just for its pristine diving getaways or trips to its historical museums, but because twenty of the world's finest race drivers were here to compete for a tenth of a second in the much celebrated Formula One Grand Prix.

Thursday – The Parties

Pre-race parties filled the city—there were open ones where tourists mingled with the local fans along with local food and drinks, and there were VIP ones where I got to go in to through, well, kissing ass.

First up was the Lucky Strike Bar Honda welcome party for its two drivers, the promising British Jenson Button and the very likeable crashaholic Takuma Sato from Japan. Taku can be remembered for making the F1 headlines for all the wrong reasons in 2002—him being the first rookie to crash in Australia and then bumping into his teammate Giancarlo Fisichella.

Speaking of Fisichella (nice segue, eh?), the consistently impressive Italian driver showed up in the Renault welcome party, along with his teammate Fernando Alonso from Spain who's fresh from capturing a win in the Formula One race in Malaysia just weeks ago.



FISICHELLA doing his model impersonation.



MEET my first fan as a race car driver—an Arab kid.

Friday and Saturday – The Practices

Day 1 was quiet, as expected. The circuit was being geared and dressed up for Sunday's big race. The organizers created a cool "F1 Village", a landscape of sprawling grassy areas, flowering shrubs, palm trees and benches amid a cluster of cafes, stores where one can buy Formula One merchandise and face tattoo areas. Yey.

Day 2 woke up everyone's spirits with qualifying sessions, more practice sessions and the first race for Formula BMW Asia. The intense (I mean INTENSE) heat was made more maddening by this giant man-spider-black-beast-insect on stilts. He kept on chasing people and annoying them.

Anyway, I got the best seats in town—front row Main Grandstand tickers where you have a great view of all twenty drivers fixing, preparing, and... err, lounging. A front row seat allows your eyes to feast on the awesome speed of the racers and not to mention allows your ears to stop functioning because of the loud, loud screeching sounds the racing creates. Thank you, yellow ear plugs from the airplane kit, thank you.



I ACTUALLY followed Alonso inside his car.

Sunday – The Race

The race was stunning. The grandstand was filled with 47,300 sport enthusiasts and dominated by screaming Ferrari fans, who were expecting Michael Schumacher to score another win. One of those fans was me. I thought there was no way our race hero can lose this one—he is after all the winner of more grand prix races and world championships than any other driver in F1 history. But unfortunately, that day wasn't lucky for Mikey, who suffered from hydraulics failure and was forced to drop out after just 12 laps in his new Ferrari. He has just two points after three races—his worst start for years. Ferrari's hopes with their new car's debut got lost somewhere in the shimmering desert heat. Ooooh. Unlucky Schumack. Dazed Race. Shite Sight. Have. To. Stop. Rhyming.

The young Spaniard (that sounded so Magellan-ish) Fernando Alonso, who I stalked in Thursday's Renault party, emerged triumphant for the second race in a row with remarkable flourish and fluency. Jarno Trulli



MINGLING with Taku, my Asian buddy.



WINNA!!!



RANDOMNESS in the track! Yey!

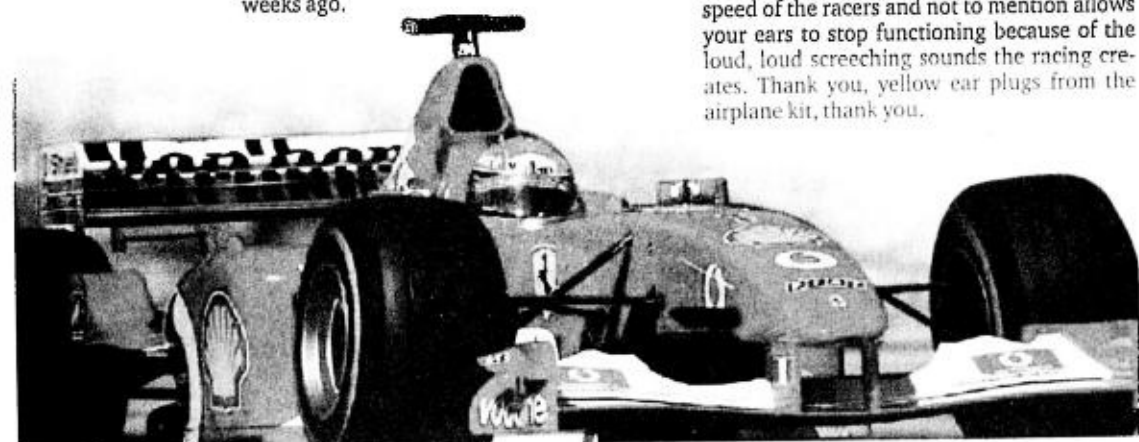


SCHUMACKY all ready in his gear. That sounded weird.

from Italy crossed the line 13.409 seconds behind Alonso to take Toyota's second top three finish in succession, while Finland's Kimi Raikkonen (who wins best name) scored a third place finish for team McLaren.

Formula One teams showed their marks of mourning for Pope John Paul II, who died the night before race day. The nose cones of Ferrari cars were black, Italian Trulli had "Thank You Pope" on his helmet, and there was no champagne spraying on the podium, aside from the fact that alcohol is forbidden in the country. Champagne was replaced by a special fruit-based carbonated drink simply called X. Oh. How X-citing. Okay, I'll stop now.

Although the Bahrain International Circuit was beaming with disappointment because of Ferrari's bad, bad finish, that didn't stop the Renault team, staff and fans to celebrate on the tracks and on the stands. Crazy supporters of Alonso were jumping jubilantly, embracing with each other, singing festive songs, dancing like there's no tomorrow—I thought to myself, someone call Olivia Newton-John in and you got the sequel to Xanadu. Okay, now I'll really shut up.

Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net

A FERRARI car. Amen.

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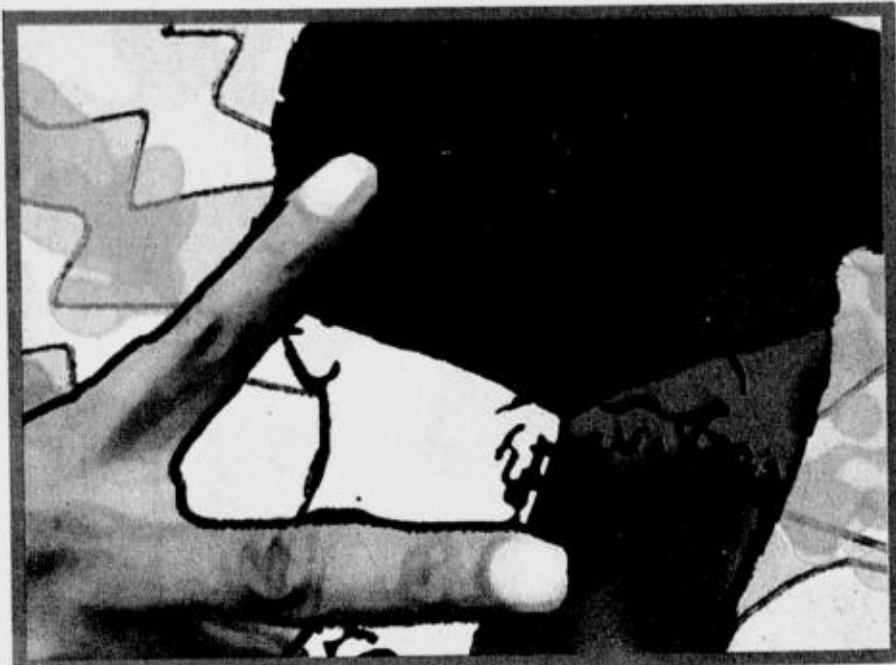
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Adidas? Sarap!

From page F1

song that I did for Elephunk. I got to show who I am. And my brother committed suicide, and that was my dedication to him.

How would you like to die?

That's a pretty deep question... I'd like to die either *bangungot* (laughs, knocks on wood)... or... I wanna die real old, like my *lolo*.

What makes you Super!?

When I go home to the Philippines to hang out with my family. When I go back to the States I feel Super!

Quickie Talk (Hm... sounds original)

Apple: Me

Orange: Sweet

Jesus Christ: My Lord

Santo Niño: My Lord

Mais: Sarap

MMDA: Is that ecstasy?

Fish ball: Sauce

GMA: Let's fix the streets together!

Jollibee: The McDonald's of the Philippines! (Uh-oh.)

Kris Aquino: Ganda

Quiapo: Traffic

Adidas: Sarap!

Tim Yap: Make me look... cool!



The supah concert of the Supahstars

AFTER being declared winners of the MTV Supahstar - D' Supah Search last December, Crizel Bañez, Kok Crisostomo, Krizia Daya, Ken Dingle, Buboy Kimpo, Rein Layug and Sitti Navarro are on their way to the top of the charts as they get ready for their launching concert on April 22 at the SM Megamall Megastrip. The concert, which will be open to the public, will also feature special performances from fellow Warner Music artists Christian Bautista, Nina, Dice & K9, and Juana.

Apart from their standout skills, these Supahstars each possess a unique star quality that was immediately spotted by casting directors Andrew E., Radha, and Tim Yap during the MTV Supahstar search. Amidst the throng of talent searches and reality shows, MTV Supahstar stood out as the wackiest and the most radical yet. The search started in August 2004 when MTV Philippines the

country's favorite music channel, held auditions in Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila. MTV was on the lookout for talented people who could complete the pop, soul, hip-hop, rap, and R&B mix. The seven winners were finally chosen by the public through SMS, e-mail, and fax voting, together with votes from Warner Music and MTV Philippines.

Multi-talented and stylish Crizel, used to design clothes and create corporate giveaways before becoming an MTV Supahstar. Her singing talent has already brought her places, performing with the likes of Freestyle, South Border, and Ogie Alcasid.

A member of the Australian boy band 'Re-Vibe' which disbanded a couple of years ago, Ken has the cool pop vibe that makes him a hit with the ladies. Also discovered in Baguio City, this guy earned the reputation of being the prankster of the group.

Buboy, the group's "rapstah," was plucked from his beloved hometown of Davao City, where he was studying and working as a DJ at Monster Radio prior to joining the MTV Supahstar search.

Rein, the certified "soul sistah" of the group, was discovered at the auditions in Baguio City. Before joining the search, she was already working

on composing her own songs and teaching choir to college students.

Don't be fooled by Sitti's sweet and youthful appearance—her voice puts her at par with the country's seasoned divas. While she was part of the MTV Supahstar search, Sitti was also a student and a part-time lead singer for a bossanova lounge group.

The only rocker in the bunch, Kok exudes the aura of the boy-next-door. This honor student from UP Diliman describes himself as rugged, focused, pessimistic and romantic.

Krizia, whose glam-diva look makes her a real-life Barbie doll, dreams of becoming a pediatrician. She puts her dreams on hold at the moment to make music with her fellow MTV Supahstar winners.

Everyone is invited to watch the launching concert and see what these rising stars have to offer. If you want to know more about the MTV Supahstar winners, then simply log on to www.pldmyapad.com and get a load of all those juicy tidbits and spicy out-takes so you can get up close and personal with all your favorites. For more information on the concert, call the MTV Philippines office at (02) 889-9251.

me & my
big mouth!
by Waltz Deo



Here's a piece of gossip that's as juicy as a pear! It seems that the owner of one of the hippest bars in Makati— who is very much married with children— has had one drink too many. As a result, she has cozied up extra close to a much younger man (their age difference equivalent to the age of a legal adult!).

This man, who is rumored to be under the lady boss' employ, must benefit a lot from being intimate with an older and wealthy woman. Apparently, she is said to have turned quite generous in giving her boytoy money— contrary to her notoriously tight-fisted nature.

Hmmm... now is that (af)fair? I better shut up now before I get beaten black and blue... and purple.

Read the chapters & clues in the Inquirer and at www.inquestor.com
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